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Pro-Democracy Demonstrators Protest in Front of Burma's Embassy in Thailand, Dec. 16. They Protested Against Burma's Military Junta

# IRAN NEWS

Former S. Korean Presidents Chun Doo-Hwan (R) and Roh Tae-Woo (L) in Court, Dec. 16. Their Sentences Were Commuted to Life Imprisonment and 17 Years, Respectively



VOL. III. No. 630 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Tuesday December 17, 1996, Azar 27, 1375, Sha'ban 6, 1417

## Iran Knocks out S. Korea with Stunning 6-2 Win

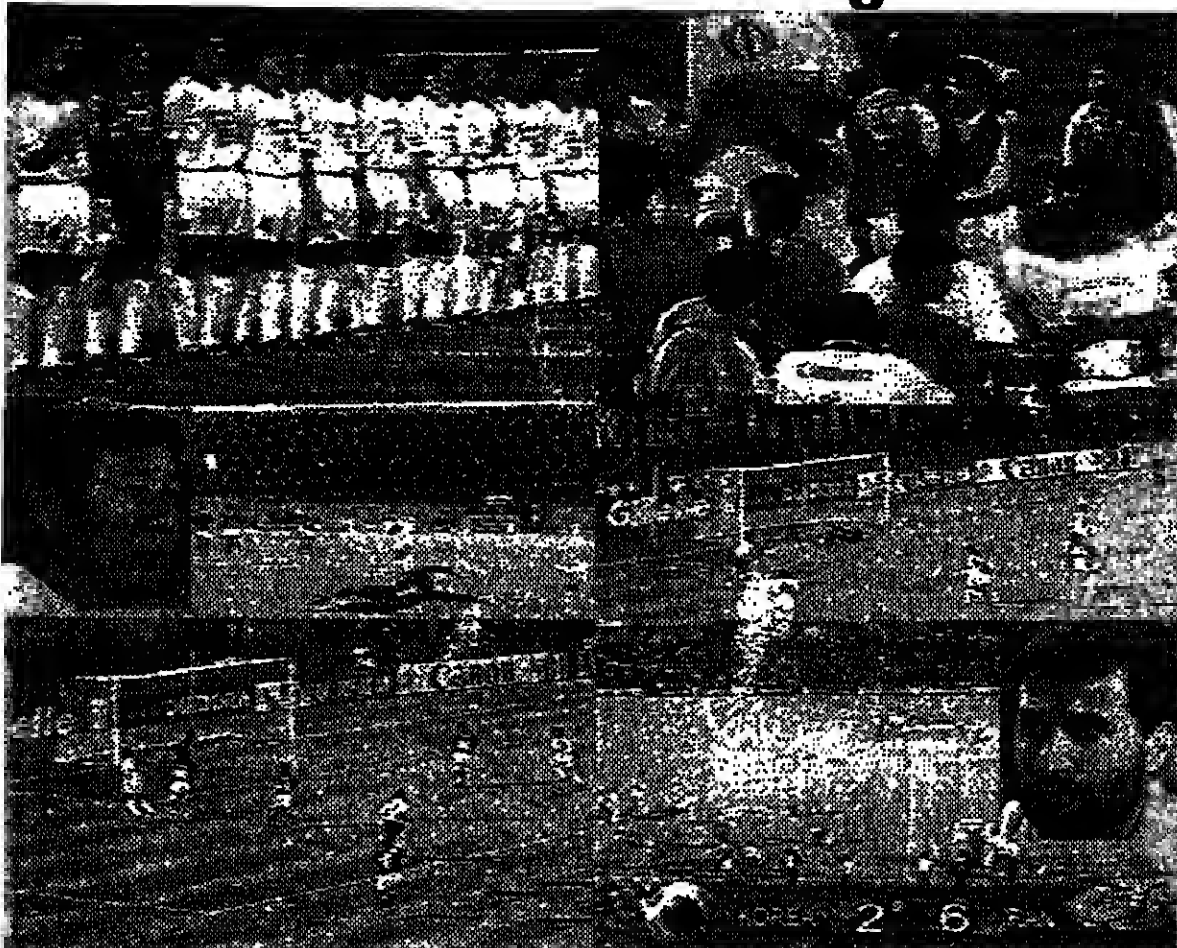
IRAN NEWS SPORTS DESK  
TEHRAN - Iran, with four late goals from striker Ali Daei, twice came from behind to crush South Korea 6-2 in their Asian Cup quarterfinal match in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. yesterday.

It was a brilliant victory for an Iranian side who have got stronger as the competition goes on and now have a semifinal appointment with either Saudi Arabia or China.

Iran's President, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in a message released here last night, expressed his "heartfelt congratulations" on the occasion of the crushing victory of the Iranian soccer team versus South Korea.

In a part of his message, the President while expressing his felicitations on the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Sajjad (A.S.), conveyed his good wishes to the nation and all the members of the team.

According to an AFP dispatch from Abu Dhabi, Korea began the match at a furious pace that immediately unsettled the Iranians, who were being forced out of their stride.



Members of Iranian team celebrate victory (top R), South Korean Assistant Coach: Tears of defeat (middle L), Iranian Coach Mayeli Kohan: Happy and confident (down R)

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## Iran Will Cast Vote in Favor of Secretary General-Elect Annan



ZARIF

BY MOJGAN TAVASSOLI

TEHRAN - A senior official of the Foreign Ministry yesterday said that Iran will cast its vote in favor of Kofi Annan in the U.N. General Assembly.

Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif in an interview with IRAN NEWS said that Iran's vote will go in favor of Annan in 185-member General Assembly.

The U.N. Security Council on Friday with one voice approved the name of Ghanaian diplomat for the post of the secretary-general of the world body.

"I don't want to go into details at this stage about the way Mr. Annan was elected by the 15-member Security Council," Zarif said, adding, "As a whole we view Mr. Annan as a positive person."

"Some countries in the Third World raised their voice against Mr. Annan ... but that criticism was made against the United States and not the secretary general-elect."

He was referring to the U.S. lone vote cast against the current Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last week on Tuesday. The other 14 members of the Security Council cast their votes in favor of the second term of Boutros-Ghali.

See Page 13

## ERBAKAN:

## Tehran, Ankara Relations to Be Upgraded on All Levels

ANKARA, TURKEY (IRNA) - Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said here Sunday night that Tehran-Ankara relations will be further promoted in all areas.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA correspondent here, he added that the agreement concluded between the two countries on purchase of Iranian gas by Turkey is aimed at boosting bilateral relations and that a third party has no right to criticize it.

On baseless claims of the West against Iran and Turkey on violation of human rights, he said the worst cases of human rights violations are taking place in the West. Erbakan added that the West with the aim of halting progress and finding an excuse to impose economic sanctions on Iran has been resorting to such fabricated claims. Their main objective is political and ideological, he told IRNA.



cal, he told IRNA.

The Turkish prime minister underlined the need to protect the territorial integrity of Iraq and establishing peace and stability in the whole region. He added that all Iraqis must live in peace and tranquillity within Iraq.

Erbakan described the Turkish See Page 13

## LEADER:

## War-Disabled, Symbol of Resistance

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in a meeting with model disabled war veterans said that the disabled veterans are among the blessings and the standard-bearers of the Islamic Revolution.

The meeting took place on the auspicious occasion of birth anniversary of Hazrat Abbas, son of Imam Ali (A.S.) celebrated in Iran as the Day of the Disabled.

Ayatollah Khamenei appreciated the disabled veterans for tolerating their pains and for overcoming their severest physical disabilities.

The Supreme Leader said the war-disabled are models for people especially for the youth, adding that they have employed all their God-given physical and spiritual powers and have succeeded in many scientific, management and athletic fields.

The Leader called on the youth to follow the example set by the disabled war veterans in every field of activity they enter.

"The war disabled are the reminiscent of the great tests passed by the Iranian nation and



people are expected to hold them in high reverence," the Leader said.

The Supreme Leader also praised the wives of the war-disabled for sharing the sufferings of their husbands.

Before the Leader's remarks, Head of Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation Mohsen Rafiqdoust introduced the model disabled war veterans and outlined their achievements in scientific, religious, sports and artistic fields.

## Serbian Court Gives Second Town to Opposition

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Serbian students, riding the crest of a wave of anti-government protests, launched a fifth week of street marches yesterday as a court dealt a new blow to Socialist attempts to keep control of disputed councils.

The Municipal Court in Smederevska Palanka ordered the local electoral commission to give the Municipal Council to the opposition Zajedno (Together) Coalition.

The ruling was a second breakthrough for Zajedno since a similar order was made in the southern industrial town of Nis on Sunday, but opposition parties were still cautious.

Zajedno spokesman Slobodan Vuksanovic said: "This is very good news, but it goes only half way. We still don't know whether the commissions will accept the rulings. But people now see that their demonstrations bring results."

The demonstrations have shaken President Slobodan Milosevic and given the United

For the second part of Dr. Meshkati's interview, see page 4.

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## IRAN NEWS ON INTERNET

IRAN NEWS is now available on the Internet at the following address:

<http://netiran.com/news/iranNews/current.html>

## Arafat Says Negotiations with Israel to Resume

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said yesterday that he and Israeli Leader Benjamin Netanyahu had agreed to resume stalled peace negotiations despite high tensions caused by Israel's settlement policies and a renewal of violence in the occupied territories.

Arafat said he discussed the beleaguered peace process in a late night phone call Sunday to Prime Minister Netanyahu and in talks here with two top aides to the Israeli leader, Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh and attorney

Yitzhak Molkho.

"What happened is that the Israelis said they want to continue negotiations. We told them 'Welcome,'" Arafat told reporters at his office.

Speaking of his talks with the Israeli envoys, he added: "The important thing concerning this meeting is continuity in the peace process and we were insisting to carry on in this line."

Arafat said the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on resuming implementation of the Oslo self-rule agreements would

be pursued in "all aspects ... there is no condition to come back to the discussions."

Netanyahu dispatched Naveh and Molkho, who have been closely involved in negotiations on the extension of self-rule to Hebron, after the Palestinian leadership expressed its outrage over an Israeli government decision on Friday to provide new financial incentives to Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

Israeli press reports quoted Netanyahu aides as saying the prime minister took the initiative in sending the envoys to Arafat at the urging of the United States which feared the settlement issue would lead to a breakdown of the peace process.

Arafat warned over the weekend that the decision to resurrect

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Lucas, Creator of a Myth

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PLA's HK Countdown

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U.A.E. Celebrates

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# IRAN NEWS

Managing Director: MOHAMMAD SOLTANIFAR  
Editor in Chief: MORTEZA FIROOZI  
Editorial Dept. Tel: (0098-21) 383 0231-2, 878 9785  
Telex: 110455 INNS IR  
ISSN 1034-6053  
Fax: (0098-21) 878 6475  
Public Relations Tel/Fax: 878 6475  
Electronic Access Tel: (0098-21) 878 9784  
http://netiran.com/news/IranNews/current.html  
P.O. Box: 15115-658  
No. 41, Lida St., Vali-ye-Asr Ave,  
North of Vanaak Sq., Tehran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Printed in Kayhan

## EDITORIAL

### Israel Does Not Understand Language of Civilized People

Time and again it has been proven that Israel does not understand the language of civilized people. The Palestinians and the oppressed people of South Lebanon are always forced to use the language which is understood by the Zionist usurpers in the occupied Palestine.

According to a report the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian Authority of Yasser Arafat agreed after U.S. intervention to resume talks yesterday.

The thorny issue is Israeli troop redeployment from the West Bank town of Al-Khalil or Hebron. The withdrawal from Al-Khalil was scheduled to take place March 28, 1995, but the then Prime Minister Shimon Peres postponed it until after the elections.

The defeat of Peres and assumption of power by Netanyahu in June further postponed the withdrawal of the Israeli forces because the new Likud leader refused to implement what his predecessors had agreed to do.

Under the terms of the 1995 Oslo accords extending Palestinian self-rule, 80 percent of Al-Khalil (Hebron) is due to come under the control of Palestinian police, while Israeli troops are to remain in the other 20 percent to guard Jewish settlements and religious sites.

So far, contrary to the agreement, the Netanyahu government has actively encouraged the settlers to grab more and more land belonging to the Palestinians.

As a result, Israeli-PLO tensions flared in the last week over Tel Aviv's decision to grant financial benefits to Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and the death of two settlers there.

The deaths were a message sent to the usurpers. And now, Yitzhak Molcho, an adviser to Netanyahu, has met with Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat after a 10-day break in Al-Khalil talks to discuss an agreement.

Palestinians and Israelis had been discussing the issue for three months, but failed to produce an agreement because of the irrational attitude of Netanyahu who wants to cater to the expansionist whims of some 400 Jews who live in Hebron at the expense of more than 100,000 Palestinians.

As in the past, the meeting might ease tensions in Al-Khalil, but the Palestinians must make sure that these parleys are not an effort by the usurpers to buy time.

The Palestinians should bear in mind that it was Netanyahu who granted financial benefits, such as tax breaks, to the West Bank settlers.

They should not forget that Netanyahu has no intention of voluntarily honoring commitments made by his own country's government, and does not understand the language of civilized people.

## Firm Against Hegemonistic Plots, Speaker

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK  
TEHRAN - "Resisting imperialistic plots calls for a solid stance," Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri said here yesterday.

Addressing members of the Central Council of Islamic Society of Workers, the Majlis Speaker added that creating such a nation calls for the close cooperation and coordination of all organizations.

Emphasizing the presence of the country's 7-million work force in all fronts and their key role in the enhancement of the objectives of the Islamic system, the Speaker said that the mission of all organizations with Islamic objectives should be the propagation of the holy laws of Islam and political and religious upgrading of the people.

He said all the selfless and sincere acts aimed at enhancing the Revolution will bear fruit only through reliance on God Almighty and by being in line with the genuine Islamic jurisprudence and ideology which are tested and true.

## Tehran-Riyadh Relations Discussed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK  
TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Hojatoleslam Nouri Shahrudi in Riyadh on Sunday met the Saudi First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz and discussed bilateral relations.

The Iranian official said, quoted by IRNA, the current tranquility in the Persian Gulf and the economic development in the region have lured the conspirators and the ruling Zionists in the U.S. to lead the region into chaos and to plunder the Muslim nations of their assets.

The ambassador said the regional states including Iran and Saudi Arabia should exercise vigilance and not allow the U.S. and the Zionist regime to attain their ominous goals.

The two officials explored ways of developing ties between the two countries. Hojatoleslam Shahrudi appreciated the Saudi



## Iran Has Low Maternal Mortality Rate, Marandi

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK  
TEHRAN - "The high rate of maternity mortality in the Third World countries is due to side effects of pregnancy," said the Minister for Health and Medical

Education Dr. Alireza Marandi.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Educational Consultative Workshop on the Health and Safety of Mothers and Babies here yesterday, Marandi said that 11 percent of all pregnancies happen in the developed countries while 61 percent take place in Asia where 55 percent of maternity deaths occur as well.

The minister also said, "75 percent of childbirths in Iran take place in hospitals," adding that infant mortality rate and the death

rate among the under-5 age group is 26 and 33 for every 1000, respectively.

Marandi further added that mothers and babies are equally precious in every corner of the country, and that the government had done its best to eliminate all difficulties facing mothers.

The workshop which aims at improving the familiarity of medical students with mothers and infants' healthcare will end tomorrow.

## Habibi to Visit Tajikistan

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK  
TEHRAN - First Vice President Hassan Habibi is to visit Tajikistan on December 29 on an official visit, according to Iran's Ambassador to Dushanbe Seyed Rasoul Mousavi.

Mousavi said the goal behind the visit is to expand Tehran-Dushanbe economic and commercial relations, improve bilateral cooperation at international fora and promote bilateral political and cultural ties, according to IRNA.

Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov has visited Iran twice so far.

## 6,000 Iraqi Refugees Return Home

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK  
TEHRAN - A total of 6,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees residing at Siranband refugee camp in the provincial city of Baneh have left for their home since early December.

Head of the Foreign Nationals and Expatriates Department in Kurdistan Province Abbas Hajali said yesterday that this brought the number of refugees leaving the province for Northern Iraq since November to 29,000.

Hajali said, quoted by IRNA, that the Iraqi Kurdish refugees are not awaiting assistance from the international community to keep

themselves safe from the freezing cold in Northern Iraq.

Related news from Kashan (Isfahan) indicates that 200 Iraqi refugees residing in the city had left for home voluntarily on Sunday.

## Canadian Official Praises Iran's Achievements

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK  
TEHRAN - Canadian Ambassador to Tehran Charles Michel de Salaberry said here on Sunday that Iran's achievements in the area of reconstruction were "admirable."

Salaberry, speaking to presidential adviser on international affairs, Ali Reza Moayyeri, here Sunday underlined expansion of Tehran-Ottawa ties in technical, economic and cultural spheres.

The two sides at the meeting also exchanged views on Iran's making use of Canada's experiences in the field of environment protection and Canada's utilization of Iran's experience in the area of anti-narcotics campaign.

## Iran's Ambassador Meets Omani Sultan

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK  
TEHRAN - Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed received Iran's Ambassador to Muscat Siyavosh Zargar Yaqoubi in Muscat on Saturday.

The two officials exchanged views on Tehran-Muscat ties as well as regional issues.

Sultan Qaboos at the meeting underlined his country's willingness to consolidate its historical ties with Iran, IRNA reported.

## Besharati, Turkish Ambassador Stress Importance of Bilateral Ties

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK  
TEHRAN - Turkey's Ambassador to Iran Uthman Kortouk here yesterday met and conferred with Minister of Interior Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Commenting on Iran-Turkey's historical, cultural, economic and political commonalities, Besharati noted, "Iran and Turkey have been independent countries opting for promotion of ties."

"Observing the principle of good neighborly relations and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains friendly and solid relations with its neighbors," the minister said.

Denouncing the publicity of Turkish mass media, Besharati remarked, "Iran does not have border problems with its neighbors and rejects foreign interference in the region."

Stressing the need to solve Iran-Turkey security issues, he noted, "Be assured that Turkish opposition does not have a place inside Iranian borders. We expect Ankara to realize this policy of Iran."



TEHRAN - Kortouk (L) shakes hands with Besharati (Photo by Moradi)

Besharati emphasized promotion of bilateral relations in all areas.

The Turkish ambassador in turn referred to mutual economic, political, cultural, and security interests of Iran and Turkey.

He remarked that Turkey attaches special importance to extensive and cordial relations with the

Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ambassador said border problems can be solved through negotiations between Iranian and Turkish officials.

He voiced his country's interest in uplifting ties with Iran and expressed hope to be able to take steps toward cementing bilateral ties during his tenure in Iran.

کتابخانه



**Canadian  
Official Praises  
Iran's  
Achievements**



## Oil Project Negotiation Outcomes Announced Soon

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**  
TEHRAN - Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said yesterday that his ministry would soon declare the outcome of its talks with foreign companies over the implementation of oil and gas projects, according to an IRNA report.

Aqazadeh said here that Iran was fully capable of financing projects aimed at the export of gas. Iran and Pakistan were currently studying costs and routing of a pipeline between the two countries, and the minister said serious talks would start on a contract after the studies were completed.

He also referred to the OPEC



AQAZADEH

Ministerial Session held in Vienna recently, telling IRNA that

when the call came from certain members to raise their production quotas, and talk arose over Iraq's re-entry, the oil market weakened and the price dropped by one dollar per barrel.

But he said that since OPEC had already predicted Iraq's entry into the market, and its production quota, OPEC members had nothing to worry about. The session ended with oil prices edging up to previous levels.

The Iranian oil minister also spoke of the fifth meeting of Oil Producing and Consuming Countries in India recently. Participants held talks on important issues such as energy, environ-

mental protection, taxation and the prospects for energy in the next century.

Aqazadeh said he hoped a new phase of cooperation would start between the oil producing and consuming countries through the drawing up of a specific strategy in their next meeting, due to be held in South Africa next year, IRNA reported.

## Habibi on Yazd's Tourist Attractions

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**  
TEHRAN - First Vice President Hassan Habibi Sunday in Yazd said the city of Yazd had abundant tourist attraction monuments and that it needed development of infrastructural tourism facilities with an emphasis on the cultural aspects of the enterprise.

Habibi said that the city had a unique traditional texture which would better be rehabilitated in its original form.

According to an IRNA report, he proposed that a national association be formed for rehabilitating traditional textures in old cities with the involvement of the ministries of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, and the National Heritage Organization of Iran.

Deputy Interior Minister for Development Affairs Rassoul Zargar said that between 10 and 20 percent of the textures of the cities in the central province of Yazd was traditional but that the total population of these cities was steadily decreasing.

Habibi also met with leaders of Friday congregational prayer of the province and in his talks with them he reminded the need for giving wider publicity to Islamic codes of conduct and to ethics as the leading concern of the people.

## Lack of Money Bogs Textile Industry



**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**  
TEHRAN - Lack of liquidity, unstable market and shortage of raw materials are the problems besetting the textile industry.

Speaking to the visiting reporters Abolreza Nicknejad, managing director of Jamina Production Co., a producer of suits, said the most pressing problem was lack of raw material and unstable market whereas lingering customs formalities for clearance of goods was frustrating the garment industry.

He said by solving that problem the industry can saturate domestic needs with better quality products and export the surplus.

Jamina is fabricating 45000 pairs of suits and as many pairs of trousers a year, said Nicknejad adding that 70 percent of the company's yield are exported and he aims to increase production six times in the future.

Mansour Daneshmand, acting managing director of Jamco Co. said the Jamco's nominal capacity was 150 thousand pairs of suits in each shift and that Jamco is producing different garments such as jackets, trousers and overcoats.

"Presently Jamco produces 40 thousand pairs of suits a year which is only 30 percent of the factory's nominal capacity causing the factory to incur losses, but fortunately the Ministry of Industries is closely assisting the factory," said Daneshmand adding that lack of liquidity, restraining labor regulations and worn-out machinery slowed production.

But he expressed hope that by solving these problems Jamco would emerge as a successful exporter in foreign markets.

Jamco is exporting 200 thou-

sand pairs of suits a year to Central Asia and Persian Gulf regions.

Commenting to the press, Mohammad Javad Askarian, manag-

ing director of Makhmalpassard Co. said 80 percent of the factory's problems were internal and 20 percent were related to import

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## Iranian Expert Challenges the U.S. Over Nuclear Safety

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**  
TEHRAN - The following is the second part of Dr. Najmaddin Meshkati's interview with IRAN NEWS. The first part appeared in the front page of yesterday's IRAN NEWS.

According to Dr. Meshkati, one of the most important implications of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in 1986 in Ukraine has not been addressed yet; the critical status of the 58 other former Soviet-designed reactors, including 15 Chernobyl-type (RBMK) which are operating in Central and Eastern Europe. They desperately need help, Dr. Meshkati said, adding that there is neither a cohesive plan nor an institution for it.

"For instance, Dr. Alexei Yablokov who chairs the ecological safety commission in President Boris Yeltsin's Security Council and works as his counselor for ecological affairs, has stated that all the commercial nuclear reactors operating on Russian territory are nothing better than 'bombs temporarily generating electricity' (Los Angeles Times, June 13, 1992)," Meshkati said and emphasized that these reactors' share of energy generation in their respective countries is rather significant.

As an example, he said, 2 units at Ignalina plant in Lithuania produce 80% of the country's electricity, thus, in the short run, their

closure and replacement are neither realistic nor economically feasible.

Dr. Meshkati says in his international efforts he strives to make sure that the legacy of Chernobyl and its implications for the foregoing 58+1 reactors are not ignored. "If the lessons of Chernobyl and the efforts for improvement of the foregoing 58 plants were to be clearly delineated for the world's people and opinion leaders, then a productive and positive atmosphere would be created.

This, Meshkati says, is a necessary condition for international cooperation and will pave the way for the West to play an active role in these efforts.

Dr. Meshkati suggests that although accidents are always tragic and can have devastating effects, there are many lessons that society and industry can learn from them. As the notable American philosopher William James has said, "great emergencies and crises show us how much greater our vital resources are than we had supposed."

Dr. Meshkati believes we can and should be able to utilize our vital resources to operate nuclear power plants safely and emphasizes that we do not have a choice in the short run. However, he says we need an overall paradigm shift in dealing with nuclear plants design, construction, operation, and

regulatory oversight. "In order to improve the safety problems of nuclear power, we need to improve the safety culture of this industry and proactively address human and organizational-related factors," Meshkati, who won the prestigious Presidential Young Investigator Award from the U.S. National Science Foundation in 1989, said.

"We need a total system analysis of the whole nuclear power plant's system," he said, "by concentrating on its three main composing sub-systems; human, organizational, and technological."

"To keep the nuclear genie bottled around the world, we need genuine international cooperation and coordination among equipment manufacturers, operating companies, operators' unions, regulatory agencies, international organizations, scientific and research communities, and affected governments," Dr. Meshkati said (To be continued)

## Iran Pays off Debts to Romania in Oil

**BUCHAREST (AFP)** - Romania has recovered more than \$30 million of the 43 million owed to it by Iran through imports of crude oil and diesel, the Petrolimportport Company said yesterday.

## The Islamic Republic of Iran, Your Partner in Trade 1996

### Article 3.

Persons and firms, referred to in Article 1, intending to import their capital into Iran, should submit their proposal to the Secretariat of the Supervisory board, together with a statement in Persian, or French, covering the following points:

- The identity of the person or firm;
- The country of origin of capital;
- Type of capital, specifying the cash and non-cash amounts;
- Legal domicile and the center of activities of the person of firm;
- Type of activities and the program of operation in Iran; and, if possible, indicating whether operations will be carried out independently or in partnership;
- The sphere of activity in Iran;
- References.

### Article 4.

The board performs its duties in accordance with the law and the implementing regulations; and, should the said board be in agreement in principle with the importation of the capital applied for, it will present its view, through the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs to the Council of Ministers for approval and issue of a decree.

### Article 5.

Upon issue of the decree of the Council of Ministers, the applicant should, within a period prescribed with the agreement of the board, submit to the board a detailed list of the non-cash capital which he intends to import into Iran together with a certificate from international experts, acceptable by the board, as to the correctness of its evaluation.

Having agreed with the said evaluation, the board will present the foreign investor or his representative with the license for the import of capital permitting, at the same time, commencement of operations.

### Article 6.

The foreign investor is entitled to insure the capital which he imports into Iran, should the insurer be a foreign government insurance institution, and the said institute, as a result of an accident, replace the investor in accordance with the provisions of the insurance policy, this replacement does not constitute a transfer of capital.

### Article 7.

Within one year from the date of notification, the holder of the license is under obligation to take measure to import an appropriate capital for the commencement of operations; otherwise, his license shall be null and void. Whenever unexpected events or other predicaments, justifiable to the board, call for further delay the board must extend the license for another six months.

### Article 8.

The cash capital which is imported into Iran in lump sum or in installments, and converted into rials, must be in foreign exchange acceptable to Bank Melli Iran; and it shall be registered in the investor's name on the date of its receipt. The amount of non-cash capital plus the cost of packing, transportation, insurance, etc., paid outside of Iran, will, after verification, be totally registered in the investor's name in a special book on the date of arrival of the goods, supported by documents or pertinent bills, in a monetary unit agreed upon by Bank Melli Iran and the investor.

### Article 9.

Conversion of foreign currencies due to be converted into rials is effected at the current buying rate of Bank Melli on the date of filing the application for conversion; and, Bank Melli Iran is authorized to buy the said foreign currencies or to retain them as deposit, convert and pay them in rials at a rate acceptable to both parties, subject to a separate agreement, and return them, at the time of repatriation, at the same rate.

### Article 10.

Foreign currencies left with the bank unconverted and not taken as security against rial payment will be placed at the disposal of their owners, and, owners of the said currencies are entitled to use such currencies, without conversion into rials, for the payment of the cost of their orders placed abroad or for which the capital has been

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مجلس شورای اسلامی



Iran's Republic of Iran  
Partner in Trade 1996

Arabia is interested in progress and prosperity of its large neighboring country, Iran, and has always defended Iran and will do so in future.

of raw materials, change of banking credits and shortage of liquidity.

He said Makhmalpassand fabricates different men's, women's and children's garments and has the capacity to produce 450 thousand tons of garment a year of which 60 percent is exportable.

"We have made a record export of \$9m last year and expect to export 1.5m tons of products this year," said Askarian adding that Makhmalpassand hopes to add its value added by 50 percent if present problems are solved.

Director of Aliaf Iran, Hussein Sadiq, said his factory, another textile factory, was the largest producer of nylon thread in the country producing approximately 11,500 tons of thread (60 percent is consumed locally and the rest is exported) and despite restrictions in export it managed to export \$1m worth of goods last year and \$1.5m this year.

He said his company fabricated 11,500 tons of thread last year which will be improved to 12 thousand tons this year adding that Aliaf Iran was feeding 200 factories in the country.

Korea, who just managed to squeeze into the quarterfinals after an unimpressive run in the group matches, went in front after only 12 minutes when captain Kim Joo-Sung, who was the mastermind of the Korean attack, slotted an inch perfect pass to striker Kim Do-Hoon.

Kim made no mistake and the Koreans were deservedly in front.

Iran, struggling to make any dent in the Korean defense, got the break they needed in the 30th minute when Karim Bagheri's powerful header from the edge of the area from a corner caught a Korean defender's foot.

As goalkeeper Kim Byung-Ji dived to his right the deflected ball ran into the left hand corner. But Korea came straight back and substitute Sin Tae-Yong put his side back in front less than 60 seconds after he replaced midfielder Seo Jung-Won.

But in a match that was now being played at a fast, furious pace, Iran began to settle down and suddenly it was the Korean defense that was slowly but surely being shredded.

And it was no surprise when 25-year-old Khodadad Azizi leveled the score in the 51st minute.

Minutes later Azizi had the chance to put Iran in front for the first time when he got free inside the area on the right but his shot shaved the far post.

Meanwhile Saudi Arabia yesterday beat China 4-3 and will face Iran tomorrow in a semifinal match.

allocated, or to repatriate them by virtue of Article 5 of the Law for the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments in Iran. An itemized list of expenses and payment in detail will be presented, at the end of each month, to the Supervisory Board by Bank Mellat Iran.

Source: Institute for Trade Studies and Research, Ministry of Commerce

But constant Iranian pressure finally paid off in the 66th minute when striker Ali Daei got defence and from the left of the area stroked the ball past a helpless Kim.

It was just reward for Daei, playing with several stitches in a head wound received in a group match.

Iran were now in complete control and Daei buried Korean hopes when he volleyed past Kim, rooted on his goal-line, in the 81st minute.

Daei got his hat-trick in the 83rd minute and the Koreans were left in tatters. Daei rubbed salt into the wound with a 89 minute penalty.

For Korean manager Park Joo-Hwan, the defeat has almost certainly cost him his job.

Before the tournament he asked for his contract to be extended until the 1998 World Cup in France. He was told to wait and see what happened. Being crushed by Iran was not what Korean football officials had in mind.

Zarif said, "We welcome that a person from African continent has been chosen for the post."

"Mr. Annan's attitude remained positive and we should not be hostile against him," Zarif said.

Zarif said that he has rich experience for maintaining peace and all possible facilities should be provided to him to continue his crucial task for the peace.

Annan has been working as undersecretary-general in charge of peacekeeping forces of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Annan himself denied press reports suggesting he was 'America's man'.

and Iranian people as brothers and added that this is in the interest of the world community.

Turning to U.S. opposition to expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties and the agreement on transfer of Iran's gas to Turkey, the Turkish prime minister said that strengthening relations between Iran and Turkey is not only to the interest of the two countries and the region but is of great importance to the whole world.

Turkey needs sources of energy and through Iran it can meet its needs, said Erbakan expressing hope that Iran's gas would be transferred to Turkey within the next year.

Turkey intends to transfer Iran's gas to the cities of Van and Agri from two directions, he told IRNA. The gas will be transferred from Iran to Van in eastern Turkey to Diyarbakir, in south-east Turkey, and the second route from Agri in east to Ankara through Erzurum and Sivas.

The project will become operational in eastern Turkey within a year but construction of the pipeline to transfer the gas to Diyarbakir and Ankara will take two to three years.

Erbakan said the two neighboring countries cooperate in three regional organizations, namely the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the permanent Committee of Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the proposed G-8 of the developing countries.

The eight developing countries will form a grouping to help broaden cooperation among developing nations, the Turkish prime minister stressed, adding that the Iranian president attaches great importance to this initiative.

On the impending visit to Turkey of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran, he termed the visit as very important and essential for boosting bilateral relations.

The Turkish prime minister said the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey would exceed \$2.5 billion in 1997 and a new agreement on the procedure of trade between the two states would be signed during the forthcoming visit of President Rafsanjani to Ankara.

Asked about Turkey-Israel military accord, Prime Minister Erbakan said the accord is related to modernization of 60 Turkish F4 jets. He added that in view of the fact that a new F-4 jet costs \$30 million and its modernization costs only \$7 million it is wiser to choose the second option.

He said since the U.S. and Israel possess the technology needed for modernization of F-4 planes, a country willing to modernize its F-4 jet fighters has no other alternative but to do this in the U.S. or in Israel.

"In the past, Turkey used to hold negative views on Iran during previous debates at the United Nations on the situation of human rights in Iran, but, now Turkey has adopted a positive stand toward Iran because there are no serious cases of human rights abuses in Iran and Turkey," the Turkish prime minister said.

He said the West by making biased comments on human rights situation in certain countries is actually seeking other goals, for example disintegrating of Turkey and blocking Iran's progress and development.

On the prospects of Iraq and developments in Northern Iraq, he said the expiry of the mandate of the United Nations forces in Turkey is an important event. The forces were deployed in Turkey during the Persian Gulf War and the influx of refugees to Turkey from Northern Iraq.

Erbakan reiterated, "We respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq."

Nis and Smederevska Palanka in southeastern Serbia were among towns where commissions disqualified Zajedno for "irregularities" in the local elections on November 17 and awarded control to the ruling Socialists.

Vukosavljevic said the news would maintain the momentum of the daily marches which swelled to a peak of a quarter of a million in Belgrade on Sunday.

An earlier student march attracted 50,000 people, and student leader Bojan Bogdanovic said that rather than stifling the protests the authorities helped keep them alive.

"When the atmosphere is dropping at demonstrations the authorities always do something to provoke people to come out,"

he said. "The first time it was shutting down (independent radio station) B92. Over the weekend it was Milosevic's letter (published on Friday defending his government's actions) that kept people angry."

According to Zajedno, the demonstrations have also spread from 10 towns a week ago to some 27 on Sunday, although it was too early to say how many would continue into the working week.

"We were surprised by the reaction of the people and the number of supporters we got even three weeks ago," Vukosavljevic said.

"Now we understand that the people regard this as a job. They tell us they come every day at three o'clock with their families, and if they can't make it they send their neighbors. This is like a duty for them."

Zajedno claimed victory in 14 of Serbia's 18 largest towns in polling on November 17, but lost most in a repeat of the elections ordered by the authorities following alleged "irregularities".

Vukosavljevic said they would maintain the protests until they were awarded control of the industrial centers of Kraljevo and Jagodina as well as Belgrade.

Police have so far kept a low profile during the rallies, held in a carnival atmosphere with music, street performers and fireworks, but memories of 1991 when Milosevic crushed the last big street challenge to his rule with tanks have never been far away.

Zajedno said international backing was vital for their campaign, arguing their supporters are encouraged by the Western criticism of Milosevic, and that the Serbian president is sensitive to international opinion.

a special priority status for West Bank settlements was a "time-bomb" that could lead to new violence.

"Soon we will not be able to stop the downward slide and once we have counted up the dead we will be back where we started," he said.

Netanyahu for his part over the weekend accused Palestinian leaders of planning "a new wave of violence" similar to clashes between Palestinian police and protesters and Israeli troops in September which left 86 dead — an allegation Arafat dismissed as "propaganda."

Netanyahu's latest settlement decision also drew strong protests from Arab and Western governments, with Washington calling it "troubling" and "unhelpful."

To try to mend fences, Israeli officials said Netanyahu was dispatching Foreign Minister David Levy to Amman this week and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to Cairo on Wednesday to explain the move.

Netanyahu also called Jordan's King Hussein yesterday to explain the settlement decision and reaffirmed his commitment to the Middle East peace process, Israel Radio reported.

Israel, PLO on Track for Hebron Talks

JERUSALEM - Israel and the PLO agreed after U.S. intervention to resume talks yesterday on Israeli troop redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron.

EU Repeats Opposition to U.S. Sanctions Ahead of Washington Summit

LONDON, ENGLAND (IRNA) - The current president of the European Union, Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, was set to reiterate the 15-nation group's opposition to U.S. unilateral sanctions when he was due to meet President Clinton yesterday.

Speaking before his departure for Washington, he said the EU had adopted a very strong position against U.S. extraterritorial legislation and that he would reaffirm this opposition.

A communique issued by European leaders at the end of their summit in Dublin Saturday also scolded Washington's use of sanctions, saying U.S. objectives should be pursued by "means other than unilateral action at the expense of closer partners."

U.S. legislation first against Cuba then against Iran and Libya has provoked a hostile response from the EU, including protesting to the World Trade Organization about its legality.

signaling an easing of tensions over settlements and shootings.

Yitzhak Molcho, an adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was due to meet Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat after a 10-day break in Hebron talks to try to wind up an elusive agreement, a PLO official said.

Israel and the PLO have failed in three months of negotiations to agree on security arrangements which Netanyahu wants to protect some 400 Jews who live and study in Hebron amid more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Conditions in Ramallah Bleak After 5-Day Siege

JERUSALEM - Palestinian Cabinet Minister Hanan Ashrawi said yesterday a five-day-old Israeli siege of Ramallah has severely disrupted health and educational services in the West Bank city.

Ashrawi, minister of higher education, said Ramallah's main hospital had suspended normal surgical operations and was dealing only with emergencies.

"Hospitals say right now they have supplies but they're running low on fresh produce, I don't know how long Ramallah can last in this state of siege," she said in an address to the Foreign Press Association.

Israel imposed a closure on Ramallah, cutting it off from other parts of the West Bank, on Wednesday following the killing near the city of two Jewish settlers by gunmen belonging to the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Ashrawi said the Palestinian Authority, which demanded the lifting of the siege, "Only had hints from Israel that this will not last long but we judge on the basis of actions and not hints and public relations."

Oman Blames Israel for Deadlock in M.E. Peace Process

MUSCAT, OMAN - Oman yesterday blamed Israel for the deadlock in the Middle East peace process and said it would maintain a freeze on official contacts with the Jewish state.

"We took our decision (to freeze official ties) and we will continue to do so until Israel changes its current policy,"

Emphasizing Europe's different approach to Cuba, European leaders said they would consider negotiating a trade accord with Havana, while at the same time saying the respect of human rights and moves to political reform were a condition.

The dispute over sanctions threatened to mar what was being billed as a 'milestone' summit in Washington that was expected to cover a wide range of issues, including trade, economic conditions and the drug trade.

Bruton was accompanied by European Commission President Jacques Santer, who has also been outspoken in his criticism of the U.S. increasingly resorting to use sanctions threats as part of its foreign policy.

The summit, held twice a year, marks the first anniversary of the EU-U.S. trans-Atlantic dialogue, but is seen hampered in its aim to deepen and widen relations by the continuing dispute over extra-territorial laws.

Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi Abdallah said.

He was speaking during a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa.

Oman announced on December 4 it was freezing steps toward normalizing ties with Israel after criticizing the hard-line policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Britain Jails Palestinians for Israeli Embassy Bomb

LONDON, ENGLAND - Two university-educated Palestinians were sentenced yesterday to 20 years in jail for their part in a 1994 bombing campaign against Jewish targets in London.

Jawad Botmeh, 28, and his female partner Samar Alami, 30, were convicted last week of conspiracy to cause explosions involving the Israeli Embassy in London and a Jewish charity.

No-one was killed or seriously injured in the blasts.

Expansion of Turkey, Croatia Ties Discussed

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ambassadors of Turkey and Croatia in Tehran Sunday called for expansion of economic relations and exchange of technical know-how with Iran.

The call was made during their separate meetings with Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Akbar Torjan.

Turkish Ambassador Osman Koruturk said Central Asia can be connected to Turkey through Iran by linking the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway to the Turkish railways.

Torjan said that the value of Tehran-Ankara economic cooperation to the areas of gas, oil, electricity, transportation and industries is estimated to reach \$2,000 billion in the near future.

The Croatian ambassador to Tehran, Tomislav Bosnjak, turning to expansion of investments between Iranian and Croatian banks requested that a third bank be assigned to guarantee the Croatian banks.

Torjan voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Croatia in manufacturing ships and added that Iran can purchase spare parts from that country.



**Saeednia: When we purchase a series of machines, we allocate one machine for training and before working on these machines our technicians receive training on the machine.**



Moeeni, director of training of state industries delivers a speech in Bafnaz factory

The side-training workshop of Isfahan Bafnaz Textile Factories (IBF) was commissioned in the presence of several officials and management of textile industries.

Engineer Moeeni, director of training of state industries, Tajoldin, executive secretary of Isfahan Labor House, Karimi, the adviser of the governor-general of Isfahan Province and several other textile management were present in the ceremony.

This training workshop has been built in an area of 250 sq. meters consisting of an audio-visual training hall, health facilities and two classrooms and a large hall.

The training workshop has been built in an area of 250 sq. m. consisting of an audio-visual training hall, health facilities, two classrooms and a large hall.

The workshop contains a ring machine, a flyer machine, a multilayer remover, a carding machine, a P. airjet machine, a P.N. airjet and a jetison airjet machine.

The above two machines have been installed and commissioned for the first time in the above workshop and the F-44 shuttle weaving machine, Hakopa spindle weaving machine, punching machine, and training roller and training Daubi machines are also available in the training workshop.

Addressing the ceremony, Masood Masoodnia (Farshbaf), the managing director of Isfahan Bafnaz textile Factories welcomed the

# Isfahan Bafnaz Factories Side-Training Workshop Launched

guests and referred to the urgent need for training in the textile industry.

"Until several years ago training in industries in general and textile industry in particular was seldom done or rarely accomplished and the word training was a foreign term in the textile industry because such factories were built and run by those who had no

ates for commissioning the training complex.

"Nowadays one of the main topics and macroeconomic plans referred to, in our industry, is the question of technology and its transfer," said Moeeni adding that management, organizing information and statistics and the capability of manpower were important items in the employment of tech-

**The only way to solve the problem of our industries is to give training.**

academic education. Since in the past the training was not accomplished in a systematic manner, the machinery very soon depreciated. However, after necessary research we came to the conclusion that the training system should be modernized and despite preliminary opposition by the workers who went angry and upset when they were dispatched to training classes, we commenced this important task and the conditions have so improved that now the laborers are awaiting impatiently to be sent to such training courses," said Masoodnia.

Moeeni, director of the training of the state industries, thanked the managing director of Isfahan Bafnaz Factories and his associ-

nology which must be carefully considered.

Referring to the fact that the industrialized nations are building their own hardware, Moeeni said proper and correct use of software was an important factor in the performance of a factory.

"During the First Five Year Plan, the nation nearly reached a stage where the majority of its hardware were manufactured locally and the nation has progress ahead of Central Asian republics, India and Pakistan in this field," Moeeni added.

Referring to the need for education and research, Moeeni said the only solution for the nation's industrial problems was education and that education without research was meaningless.

Zooming on the giant budgets spent by the industrialized nations for research in industry, Moeeni said the U.S. was investing 150b dollars, France 44b dollars, and south Korea 22b dollars but regretfully the amount of money earmarked for such an important task is marginal in Iran.

"By the end of the Second Five

Year Development Plan our technical and vocational workshops will increase to 197 workshops," said Moeeni adding that the Technical and Vocational Training Organization owns 3,000 private training centers in the country which are now active. Also our technical teams are conducting training courses in army barracks and the army personnel are attending such training classes during the spare hours.

Underlining the need for training in the industries, Moeeni said Article 110 and Note 2 of the Labor Law has bound the industries to establish and exploit side-

sonnel who went to such workshops for on-the-job training faced numerous difficulties and the opposition of the workers and the theoretical systems did not correspond with practical work. Newly graduated technicians used to commit mistakes due to lack of practical experience and the workers were finding faults with them. As a result, after working for a while the educated manpower left the workshop and this caused great problem for the textile factories and evinced the need for education within the textile factories. To solve that problem we decided to mix science and expe-



State and provincial authorities inspect different parts of Bafnaz factory

training workshops for factories.

According to Moeeni more than 2500 experts are instructing in the workshops at the industrial centers by the Technical and Vocational Training Organization.

In an interview with Masoodnia, managing director of Isfahan Bafnaz Factories, Masoodnia said: "Due to establishment of training workshops in the factories and the need for training in textile industry and considering the fact that textile is a very old industry whose founders are generally merchants and businessmen and since Isfahan Bafnaz Factories

ience in the workshop because the majority of our problems were due to incorrect information about scientific and technical matters," the managing director of IBF noted.

He said in a visit to textile factories in Czech Republic it was concluded that before employing workers in the factories it was necessary for them to undergo a full on-the-job training in order to acquaint them with the related machines.

"This system was not followed in Iran and the employees of textile industries started their work

**Modern Management, organizing information and statistics and the capability of manpower are important items during the employment of technology which must be considered.**

lacked a systemic training center and educated staff and the level of education in the factory was very low, such a system was employed in IBF.

He said in the past when the factory management wanted to send workers to the technical and vocational training centers to receive training, they faced labor strikes. As a result such a progressive system of training has been launched beside Isfahan Bafnaz Factories to upgrade the knowledge of the employees.

"Formerly the question of training was taken very badly by the employees and it was difficult to solve such a wrong conception of the matter. The educated per-

**Masood Masoodnia: Until several years ago training in the industry was considered a foreign word because the textile industries was run by those who had no academic education. But conditions have so improved that now the workers are impatiently awaiting to be sent to training courses.**



Masoodnia, managing director of Bafnaz factories delivers a speech at the inaugural ceremony

with the machines without a prior training. Such an ignorance resulted in early depreciation of the machinery and unsatisfactory production," said Moeeni adding that an employee in Czech Republic attends 3 years training course before being employed in an industrial unit.

"Regretfully no comprehensive study had been conducted about this matter in Iran to trace the problem to the root and remove the defects. As a result and due to existence of advanced facilities in Isfahan we decided to establish side-training workshops beside our factories in Isfahan despite the existence of State Technical and Vocational Training Organization," Masoodnia added.

The managing director of Isfahan Bafnaz Factories said the training started from the management and supervisory level and due to our resistance against a negative attitude by the workers, the training culture in the factory has been well digested and accepted and now the employees are impatiently looking for the day that they will be sent to training courses.

"Whenever we purchase a series of machines we allocate one of them for training and before working on the machinery our technicians receive necessary training on the machine and this increases the life of the machines and improves the quality and quantity of products," said Masoodnia and expressed hope that these side-training workshops would serve as a pattern in textile industries in Isfahan province and would combine science with practical experience.



Tajoldin, executive secretary of Isfahan Labor House inspects Bafnaz side-training workshop

Training given to personnel based on subject and hour in 1375 (1996/97)						
S/N	Name of course	Instructor	Location	No of personnel	Total training hours	Man hours
1	Quran	Hoseinali Qasomi from Bafnaz	Factory	33	30	1000
2	P.N. airjet mechanics	Yadegari from Bafnaz	Factory	11	100	1100
3	Dying, print and finishing	Foroughi from IGPI	Factory	20	50	1000
4	Complete general mechanics	IGPI instructors	IGPI	1	1611	1600
5	Computer	Sa'adat from IGPI	Factory	10	170	700
6	Casting technology	Rezaei from IGPI	Factory	4	45	100
7	Management training	Ahmadi from IGPI	Factory	24	70	1680
8	Electronics	IGPI instructors	IGPI	1	800	800
9	Trainees (34)	-	-	34	200	6800
10	Milling machine repair	IGPI instructors	IGPI	4	24	96
11	Mechanics of finishing equipment	Payan from Bafnaz	Factory	32	80	2600
12	Finishing machines electricity	Sheibani from Bafnaz	Factory	50	20	2500
Total					19976	

کتابخانه



IRAN  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## S. Korean Court Commutes Ex-Presidents' Death Sentence

SEOUL (AFP) - A South Korean appeal court yesterday commuted the death sentence ordered against former President Chun Doo-Hwan for mutiny and corruption, and reduced the jail term of his successor Roh Tae-Woo.

The verdict, although widely expected, divided the nation.

Relatives of some 200 victims of the 1980 Kwangju massacre screamed "murderers ... this is no trial," the political opposition reserved judgment and Chun's home province quietly applauded.

Pointing to South Korea's meteoric economic growth and the peaceful transition of power during his presidency, the court said Chun should serve a life jail term.

Roh's sentence was reduced from 22-and-a-half years to 17 years.



SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Former South Korean presidents Chun Doo-Hwan (R) and Roh Tae-Woo (L) stand at the bar of the Seoul appellate court Dec. 16. (AFP Photo)

## Rwandan Refugees Crossing from Tanzania at 10,000 an Hour

KIGALI, RWANDA (AFP) - More than 40,000 Rwandan refugees returned to their home country from Tanzania yesterday as an exodus that began in a trickle two days ago grew to a flood, the U.N. refugee agency said here.

By midday, 51,000 had filed across the narrow border bridge at Rusumo, with more arriving at the rate of 10,000 an hour, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Paul Stromberg said here.

The number of returns grew as African leaders were due to meet for a regional summit in Nairobi to defuse the crisis in the Great Lakes region that threatens five nations - Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire.

At least 25,000 Hutu refugees were reported to have returned

from Tanzania on Sunday, while on Saturday the figure had been 5,000, at a maximum rate of just 1,000 an hour.

"It's a continuous flow, the roads are packed with refugees, between 10:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (08:45 and 09:30 GMT), 13,500 crossed over," Stromberg told AFP.

He said more than 50 men, suspected of threatening the refugees to persuade them not to return home, had been arrested by Tanzanian troops. Armed Hutu extremists accused of genocide in Rwanda have been living among the rebels.

The latest batch of refugees to go home was from the camps of Benaco and Lumasi, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the border over the Rusumo River, he added.

## The World at a Glance



**YUMURTALIK, TURKEY** - An oil tanker began loading Iraqi crude yesterday from an Iraqi-Turkish pipeline at the Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik in southern Turkey.

**NEW DELHI, INDIA** - Former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao here yesterday claimed constitutional immunity against being put on trial for allegedly buying votes.

**MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA** - One person died and more than a dozen were hurt yesterday in a car-bomb blast at the house of Juan Gomez Martinez, an ex-minister and ex-governor of Antioquia, Medellin police said.

**TOKYO, JAPAN** - Two U.S. landing craft sank off Okinawa, southern Japan, during military training yesterday, but there were no casualties, Foreign Ministry officials said.

**KARACHI, PAKISTAN** - Two more senior police officers were arrested here yesterday in connection with the killing of Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

**CALCUTTA, INDIA** - Nobel Peace laureate Mother Teresa is to undergo further electric shock treatment after her heart rhythm became irregular again overnight, doctors announced yesterday.

**LIBREVILLE, GABON** - Several members of Gabon's government have been returned to power in general elections, including Prime Minister Paulin Nguema, the state-owned daily L'Union reported yesterday. (DISPATCHES)

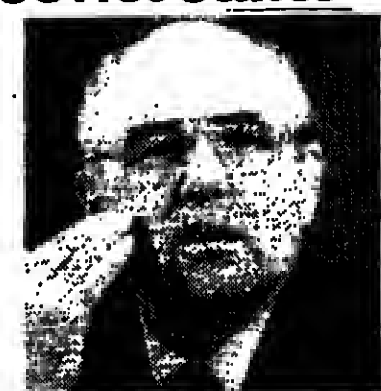
## Gorbachev Calls for New Union of Ex-Soviet States

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, still searching for a public role five years after the Soviet Union collapsed, said yesterday he could help forge a plan to renew a union of ex-Soviet republics.

Largely ignored in the country he transformed by unleashing the reforms of Perestroika and Glasnost, Gorbachev called on a conference that included former aides and members of his Communist Party politburo to draft a plan for a new union.

"I favor a new voluntary union of the sovereign governments, each enjoying equal rights, in the near future," he told the group.

"Let's give thought as to how we can unify our work so that we could present to the politicians in power a well thought out, serious, responsible proposal," said Gorbachev, winner of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize.



GORBACHEV

Gorbachev, 65, who has recently returned from visits to the United States and Europe to promote his memoirs, has long been haunted by the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991 and the impact it has on his legacy.

## Singapore Dissolved Elections Expected Soon

SINGAPORE (AFP) - President Ong Teng Cheong dissolved parliament yesterday, setting the stage for elections which were widely expected to give Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong a fresh mandate to lead Singapore into the 21st century.

No election date was immediately set but Goh and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the former premier, indicated in remarks

published yesterday that polls for a new five-year term could be imminent.

Local media expect an election date in early January.

A one-line government statement issued after financial markets closed said: "The president, on the advice of the prime minister, has dissolved parliament on Monday, 16th December, 1996."

The People's Action Party (PAP) has governed uninterrupted since 1959 and won all but four of the 81 seats contested in the 1991 general elections.

It is widely expected to retain overwhelming control of parliament in the next polls but whether the PAP can retain its share of the popular vote - which stood at 61 percent in 1991 - remains a matter of speculation.

## Ciller Denounces EU for "Excluding Turkey" from Expansion Plans

ANKARA (AFP) - Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller has blasted the European Union for excluding Turkey from future enlargement plans.

"Turkey has a far more advanced economy than any of the other candidates for future EU membership," Ciller told reporters at Ankara airport Sunday on her return from Dublin where she had met EU leaders.

"Leaving Turkey outside will be unfair for Turkey and will mark a historic mistake for the EU," Ciller said, according to the Turkish press.

In the Irish capital Saturday, the 15 EU members cited the names of 11 countries, mostly former Communist states, as potential future members of the union, but made no mention of Turkey.

Turkey, an associate member

to the EU, last year signed a customs union agreement with the union aimed at boosting trade.

However, vetoes by Turkey's arch rival Greece have hampered the flow of EU financial aid to

Ankara envisaged by the customs union accord.

Also allegations of continued human rights abuses in Turkey have adversely affected the ties with the EU.



BEIJING, CHINA: Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers on their day off, admire the Hong Kong countdown clock at Beijing's Tiananmen Square Dec. 15. (AFP Photo)

## Emir Says Bahrain Will Not Give up Territory

MANAMA, BAHRAIN (AP) - The emir, in an apparent reference to the bitter territorial dispute with Qatar, vowed yesterday to defend Bahrain's borders.

Sheik Isa bin Salman al Khalifa was addressing his small Persian Gulf island nation on its 25th national day.

"No part of the country will be given away, or be up for bargaining," the emir said. He vowed that "Bahrain will continue to defend the unity of its national soil ... by all legitimate means."

Bahrain and Qatar, both members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, claim sovereignty over a chain of islands and the Zubara Strip of land in Qatar that has historical significance for Bahrain's ruling family.

## Rifkind Meets Clerides, Denktash, Sees Cyprus Breakthrough in 1997

NICOSIA (AFP) - British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind met Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot leaders yesterday and said 1997 should produce a breakthrough in efforts to end the island's division after more than 20 years.

Rifkind, on the first official visit by a British foreign secretary since Cyprus gained independence from Britain in 1960, warned however that further militarization on the island carried the risk of conflict.

"There is a real scope for progress but one must acknowledge that that's not going to happen overnight," Rifkind told reporters at the presidential palace, where he met Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides.



RIFKIND

"1997 ought to be the year in which perhaps an important breakthrough is made," ahead of

accession talks expected to start in early 1998 for Cyprus to join the European Union, said the foreign secretary.

Rifkind said his two hours of talks with Clerides, a Greek-Cypriot, had been "very encouraging."

Rifkind, following his talks with Clerides, crossed the U.N.-patrolled "green line" dividing Nicosia for a meeting with Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community.

Tension has been running high in Cyprus since unprecedented clashes on the green line in which two Greek-Cypriot protesters were killed in August. Two other Greek-Cypriots and a Turkish soldier have also died since June.

Dr. Shahandeh's column will be on page 14 tomorrow

## Finns Lead After Opening Round

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO (AP) - World cup points leaders Sampa Lajunen and Jari Mantila of Finland put together two solid jumps Saturday to take a small lead over American skiers Tim Tetreault and Todd Lodwick in the first half of a two-man, two-day world cup sprint relay meet. Lajunen, 17, jumped 113 and 113.5 meters while Mantila went 115.5 and 97.5 meters for 222.2 points in the two-man sprint relay. Tetreault, a two-time Olympian, and Lodwick had 217.9 points for their four jumps on Howelsen Hill. The Finns will start 18 seconds ahead of the Americans on Sunday.

## Sports Highlights

### Australians to Help French Yachtsman

PERTH, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - One of Australia's most prestigious sailing clubs is standing by to help star French yachtsman Yves Parlier, struggling to reach the refuge of western Australia after his yacht was severely damaged.

Parlier, sailing Aquitaine Innovations, was one of the leaders of a fleet of 15 yachts in the Vende Globe Challenge, a single-handed, non-stop, round-the-world race in which he is the race favorite.

Race participants were hit by storms nine days ago. Parlier's 20-metre (65-foot) hi-tech boat is among three to receive severe damage. It has damaged rudders, deck fittings and sails.

### Lloyd Warns West Indies

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - West Indies team manager Clive Lloyd said here on Monday it may be time for a clear out in the ailing squad touring Australia.

Criticized for their dismal performances in the tests and one-day series, the legendary batsman said he would like a greater say in team affairs.

After two test defeats and two losses in one day internationals to Australia, Lloyd said: "We're rebuilding, there's no doubt about that."

"Our bowlers are not bowling as penetratingly as we're accustomed to and our batting is still a bit below par."

"If it means replacing some of those players, then fine, that's what we'll have to do because people expect West Indies cricket to be at the top of the ladder."

### Zamalek's Record Fourth Title

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Zamalek of Egypt became the most successful club in African history by lifting the Champions Cup a record fourth time this weekend with a dramatic triumph over Nigerian side Shooting Stars.

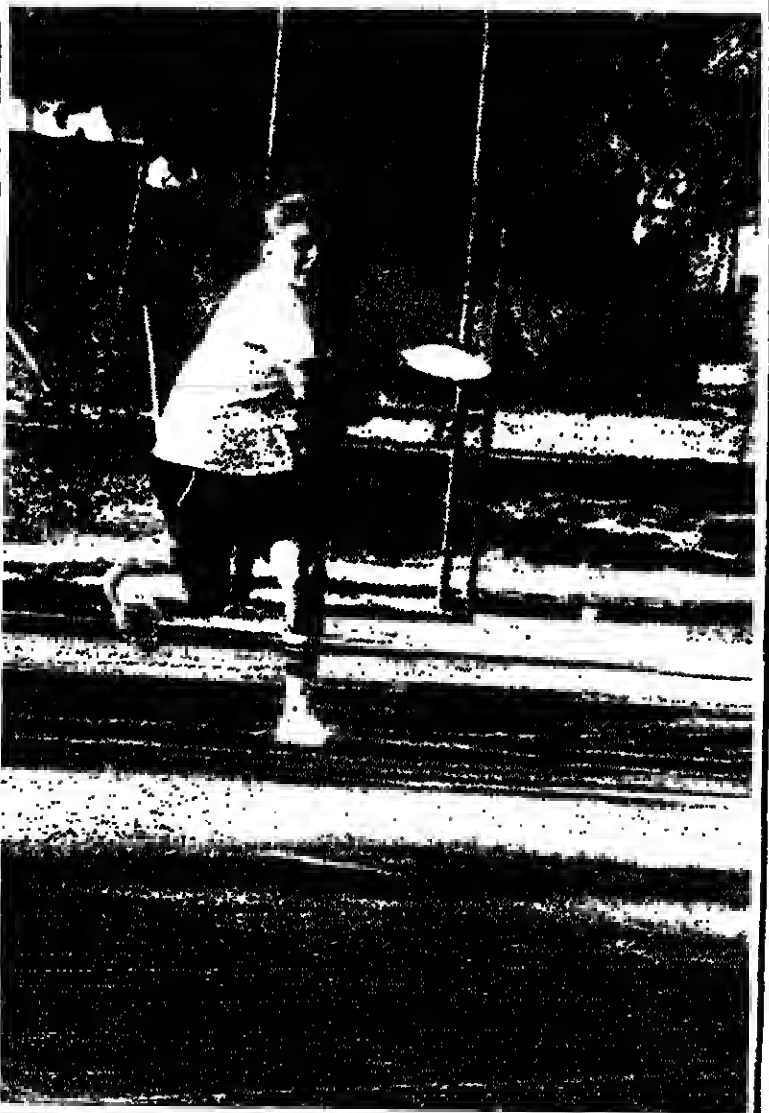
Both legs of the final produced 2-1 victories for the home team so the continental showpiece went to a penalty shootout at the Nasser Stadium in Cairo which Zamalek won 5-4.

The Egyptian Aristocrats seem to revel in the tension of post-match penalties with three consecutive titles coming via shootouts following the 3-0 rout of Stars in 1984.

Captain Ismail Youssef, a midfielder who played for Egypt in the 1990 World Cup, featured in the four victorious teams and was also involved in the 1994 decider, which Zamalek lost to Esperance of Tunisia.

There was only frustration for Nigeria as the 28th attempt to lift the ultimate prize ended in failure despite huge financial incentives and the support of national coach Amadou Sbaibu and a psychologist.

### I.T.F. Junior World Rankings Are Out and



Mehdi Babai (above) was ranked No.614

# IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

## Waldorf-Lehman to Face Hoch-Perry in Final

LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA (AP) - Duffy Waldorf parred the second playoff hole Saturday and he and partner Tom Lehman advanced to the final round of the Diners Club matches. Waldorf birdied the 18th hole to force a playoff against Mark Brooks and Andrew McGee, then birdied the first extra hole to put his team into a playoff against the teams of Steve Jones-Rick Fehr and Justin Leonard-Mike Halbert to determine which would face Scott Hoch and Kenny Perry in Sunday's final. Hoch and Perry defeated Steve Stricker and Kirk Triplett 1-up to move to 3-0 in the other bracket.

VOL. III, No. 630 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Tuesday December 17, 1996, Azar 27, 1375, Shahrban 6, 1417



ABU DHABI: United Arab Emirates's Ismail Ismail leaps up in the air as he celebrates with his team their victory over Iraq in Asian Cup first quarter final December 15 in Abu Dhabi. The U.A.E. beat Iraq 1-0 with a "sudden death" goal from a 35 yards free kick by Abdel Hussein in the 14th minute of extra time.

(AFP Photo)

## Cowboys Alive and Kicking

WASHINGTON D.C. (AFP) - Reigning Super Bowl champions Dallas secured their fifth straight Division title on Sunday as Chris Boniol booted four field goals to give them a 12-6 victory over New England in the National Football League.

The win over the League's top offensive team was the third in a row and fifth in six games for the Cowboys, who overcame a 1-3 start to the season and are now assured of at least one home playoff game.

The Cowboys finish the regular season next weekend at Washington, who were eliminated from playoff contention in a heart-breaking loss to Arizona.

Kevin Butler's 28-yard field goal as time expired gave the Cardinals a 27-26 victory, knocking the Redskins out of playoff contention despite a 7-1 start to the season.

"Winning five Division titles in a row is nice, I congratulated our players," said coach Barry Switzer. "But all it really does is get you in a position to attain your final goal. Next week in Washington we'll take it as a bye week. We'll take the opportunity to rest some players and get them ready for the playoffs."

Boniol kicked field goals of 35 and 29 yards in the third quarter to account for the only points of the second half. He kicked field goals of 23 and 36 yards in the first half. Boniol has kicked 26 consecutive field goals, the third-longest streak in NFL history.

The loss denied New England an opportunity to clinch the

American Conference East title. The Patriots, who have already secured a playoff berth, can still win the Division crown if Buffalo lose on Monday night at Miami. It was only the second loss in nine games for New England.

The Cowboys intercepted Drew Bledsoe three times, including a pair by safety Darren Woodson. Bledsoe completed 20 of 40 passes for 178 yards. Rookie Terry Glenn had eight catches for 84 yards. Patriots star tight end Ben Coates, who entered the game with 59 receptions for 663 yards, was held without a catch.

San Francisco and Carolina continue to battle for the NFC West title and a possible first-round bye.

The 49ers bounced back from their loss to the Panthers last week with a 25-15 victory over Pittsburgh, who had a 13-game home

winning streak snapped.

Jerry Rice caught eight passes for 63 yards and a touchdown and became the first NFL receiver with three consecutive 100-catch seasons.

Carolina kept the upper hand with a 27-16 victory over Baltimore. They can clinch the Division crown next Sunday with a win over Pittsburgh.

NFC Central winners Green Bay clinched a first-round bye with a 31-3 rout of Detroit. Minnesota secured a post-season spot with a 21-10 win over Tampa Bay, coupled with Washington's defeat.

Denver had already clinched the AFC West title and home field advantage before a 24-19 victory over Oakland. Indianapolis defeated Kansas City 24-19, both teams staying in the playoff hunt.

## Hill Wins British Award

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Formula-One world champion Damon Hill was voted BBC Television's 'Sports Personality of the Year' here Sunday.

The viewers put four-times Olympic rowing champion Steve Redgrave second and jockey Frankie Dettori third.

Redgrave won the team award with partner Matthew Pinsent.

The 36-year-old Hill, who received the trophy from last year's winner, triple-jumper Jonathan Edwards, said: "This has really made my year."

The 'Overseas Personality Award' was shared between world

heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield and sprint king Michael Johnson.



## Newcombe Says Australia Second only to U.S.A.

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia is one of the top tennis nations in terms of the strength of the number of good players on the circuit, Davis Cup captain John Newcombe said on Monday.

Newcombe said only the United States had a bigger pool of top players than Australia, who have fought their way back to the World Group and take on defending champions France in the opening round of the 1997 competition here next February.

"Throughout 1996 all seven players were in the team at some stage, with three playing singles and four playing doubles. I believe that only the United States has more depth than us," Newcombe told a press conference.

He said France would be a tough first up opponent, even on grass of the White City courts.

"We think we are good enough to beat France and win the whole Davis Cup in 1997, the only question remaining is to find out if we are as good as we believe."

"The squad is looking forward to this long awaited home tie and they all appreciate there is going to be stiff competition for the team to take on France," he said.

Newcombe, who came under pressure when unrated Hungary eliminated Australia from the first round of the Davis Cup this year, announced that he had added Sandon Stolle and Michael Tebbutt to the Australian squad for the first round tie from February 7-9.

Fed Seen Hold Interest Rates Steady



## Russia Must Launch Major Structural Reforms in 1997

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's 1997 draft budget, approved on first reading by parliament, will enable the government to undertake critical, far-reaching reform in the armed forces, social services and tax system, Finance Minister Alexander Livshits said Sunday.

Speaking to reporters after the state Duma, or lower house of parliament, voted in favor of the budget, Livshits said "the moment of truth has arrived" for structural reforms in Russia.

"In 1997, Russia faces the need to undertake complex structural reforms in the armed forces, social services, the tax system and enterprises," Livshits said. "The resources in the budget will help to ensure these reforms are carried out."

The new draft budget added an extra 34.8 trillion rubles (\$6 billion) in projected revenue and spending, after two previous drafts were rejected by the Duma.

The budget has to pass through two more readings in the Duma

with support from at least half of the chamber's deputies, before going to the upper house, the Federation Council, where it requires a simple majority to pass.

The second and third readings are expected to take place on December 25.

The government plans to allocate 30 trillion rubles to launch a new development fund to invest in profitable enterprises, which Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said should increase to hundreds of trillions by the year 2000.

Livshits said the separate development budget "will be very difficult to stick to, but we are determined to do so, with all the means at our disposal, otherwise we won't be able to boost the economy."

He said the new 1997 "budget for growth" would create conditions for more than 200 trillion rubles (\$36 billion) in investment, or two percent growth.

## Euro Notes Get Thumbs Down

DUBLIN (Reuters) - The European Union showed its citizens the color of its money this weekend, and the citizens were not impressed.

In a ceremony coinciding with a deal on budget discipline, a key step towards a European single currency, the authority responsible for the new notes took the wraps off the winning design, a tasteful collection of bridges through the ages.

Italian President Romano Prodi called it a mess. His Foreign Affairs Minister Lamberto Dini just grimaced.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said they were not bright enough and old people with bad eyesight would be confused.

British Prime Minister John Major, backed by Spanish Premier Jose Maria Aznar, pointed out that the map on the notes had missed out Turkey, Cyprus and the Balearic Islands.

Major said he wanted room for the head of Queen Elizabeth to be printed on the notes. Chirac said he did not, otherwise France and other popular tourist destinations would be flooded with notes bearing alien symbols. Newspapers were even blunter.

"Yuk!" said Munich's Abendzeitung. "The new euro - my, isn't it ugly!" the paper said in a front page headline.

Britain's Daily Mail slammed them as "bland and insipid pieces of colored paper". Printing copies of the notes on a black-bordered front page headline, it thundered:

## Fed Seen Holding Interest Rates Steady

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Federal Reserve policymakers are expected to end the year with a whimper, not a bang, by deciding to leave interest rates unchanged on Tuesday.

In public speeches and private conversations in recent days, U.S. central bank officials have voiced broad satisfaction with the shape of the economy.

While some are worried that stock prices may be too high and others fret that unemployment may be too low, most seem inclined to change rates at this time - either up or down.

"Has 1,100 years of our history come to this?"

Perhaps predictably, other British newspapers were just as outraged, reflecting bitter opposition to the very idea of a single currency and the death of the pound.

The Daily Express, angry that there was not enough room for the head of Queen Elizabeth on the notes, said they were "a suicide note for all that is best about Britain."

People on the street were just as scathing.

"It's monopoly money, isn't it? they're not serious, are they?" John Heath told the Daily Telegraph.

But some had kind words for the notes which the single currency's backers intend to put in consumers' pockets in six years - giving the designers time to clean up the glitches.

Bild, Germany's biggest selling daily, said the euro had been an abstract idea but the new designs had changed all that.

Britain's left-leaning Guardian said the notes brought home the fact the euro was no longer "a figment of the imagination."

Waxing lyrical, it said the images on the notes represented for Europeans "windows of opportunity, bridges of reconciliation and gateways to a new age in which member states of a united Europe will never again go to war and will instead bind themselves together in peace by sharing that most powerful of all social cements - a common currency."

"The risks to the economy seem pretty evenly balanced," one official, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

That is not the way it looked just a few months ago. At that time, the economy was coming off a strong second quarter and seemed on the verge of overheating.

In fact, the policy-making Federal open market committee came to the brink of raising interest rates in September, only to back off after central bank chairman Alan Greenspan argued for more time to see if the economy slowed down on its own.

## Boeing, McDonnell Douglas Announce Mega-Merger

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Boeing and McDonnell Douglas have announced they intend to merge in a stock swap to create the world's largest aircraft manufacturer and reshape the aerospace industry.

Sunday's merger announcement, with an estimated value of some \$13 billion, will boost Boeing - already the world's leader in civil aviation - far ahead of Europe's Airbus in the market for commercial aircraft.

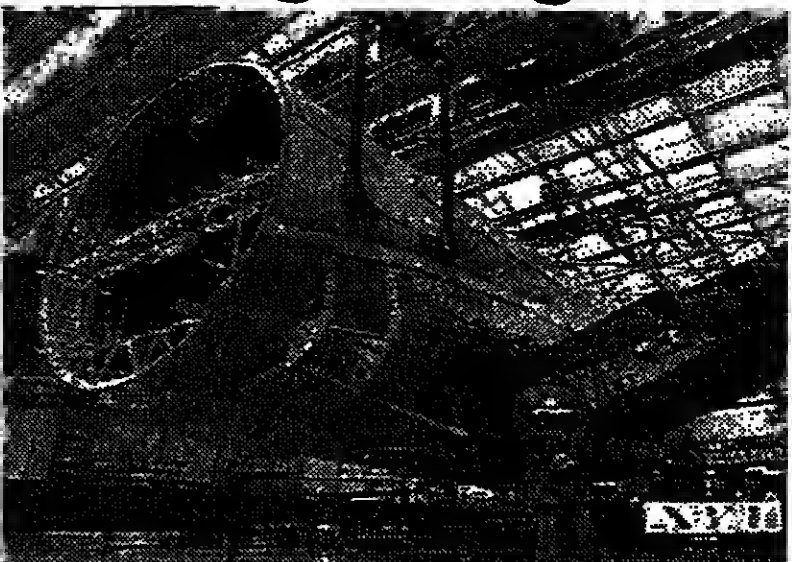
The combined group will have an estimated \$48 billion in revenues, and will operate as the Boeing company, Boeing Chairman Phil Condit told reporters here.

McDonnell Douglas will remain a division within the company.

"By bringing these two companies together we can better serve our customers and our shareholders," Condit said.

The mammoth company will also be a much bigger competitor for the Airbus consortium.

According to Boeing, between 1990 and 1995 Boeing and McDonnell Douglas had a combined 75-percent market share of the world civil aviation market while Airbus had 20 percent.



Condit will be chairman and chief executive officer of the new company and McDonnell Douglas chairman Harry Stonecipher will be president and chief operating officer.

"This is great news for the airline industry, for our nation's defense programs, and for space programs worldwide," Condit said.

Though Sunday's announcement came as a surprise,

Condit said the two companies had been talking on and off for three years. The effort to finalize a deal began only last Tuesday morning in a meeting between Condit and Stonecipher.

Under the terms of the deal, McDonnell Douglas shareholders will receive 0.65 shares of Boeing common stock for each share of McDonnell Douglas common stock, the companies said in a statement.

## World Has Only Eight Truly Free Economies

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Only eight of the world's 191 nations have truly free economies, according to a study by the Heritage Foundation think-tank and the Wall Street Journal released Sunday.

For the third year since the annual study began, Hong Kong topped the study as the freest economy in the world.

The three other nations in the Asia-Pacific region with such free economies are Singapore, New Zealand, and Taiwan.

Rounding out the free category were Bahrain, Switzerland, the United States and Britain.

Japan, Thailand and South Korea scored well in the "mostly free" range in the study which rated economic freedom in 150 of the world's countries.

Asia also contained some of the most repressed economies. Three of the five countries scoring the worst on the study's scale were North Korea, Laos and Vietnam.

Burma, China, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Cambodia landed in the "mostly unfree" range.

Ten factors made up the grading criteria: trade policy, tax policy, government consumption of economic output, monetary policy, foreign investment, wage and price controls, property rights, regulation, and the size of the black market.

The study's major finding was that "countries with the most economic freedom have higher rates of economic growth than those with less economic freedom."

Heritage Foundation economist William Beach found a statistically significant correlation between the degree of economic freedom in a country and its economic growth rate.

"Our analysis strongly suggests that countries with free-market public policies grow faster than countries that discourage economic freedoms," Beach wrote.

Poorer nations, therefore, need not resign themselves to sub-par economic growth rates. "There is no reason Laos, or other poor

countries, can't achieve economic growth rates that would put their living standards on par with those of developed countries within a generation," Beach said.

The index also pointed a finger at factors keeping nations from forging ahead, in particular faulting foreign aid.

"Instead of helping poor countries lift themselves out of poverty, development aid often impedes their economic growth," co-author Bryan Johnson said.

Among the examples the report cited were Haiti, which has accepted U.S. aid for 52 years and Somalia which has taken it for 41 years.

In the former the per capita gross domestic product fell from \$360 in 1965 to \$225 in 1994. In the latter, it fell from \$123 in 1965 to \$111 in 1993.

All told, of the 78 nations ranked as mostly unfree or repressed, 34 have taken U.S. foreign aid for more than three decades, Johnson said. Of these 34 nations, 23 are no better off today than they were in 1965 and of these 23, 13 are actually poorer than they were in 1965, the report said.

"If development aid is essential to economic prosperity," Johnson said, "why has there been so little progress by the countries most dependent on foreign aid?"

"The fact is, poverty is largely a condition imposed on people by

ill-conceived and repressive economic policies," he added.

In Europe, Switzerland was the freest country economically. Britain, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Luxembourg followed. France, Sweden and Italy were also in the "mostly free" category, but their scores were dragged down by high taxes.

European nations making little progress included Bulgaria, Russia and Albania.

Germany was the only European nation to receive a worse score each year. The latest drop stemmed from its failure to complete privatization of state-owned industries.

In Latin America, Chile surpassed Panama as the freest economy in the region. Mexico made little progress and has a mostly unfree economy.

Colombia and Venezuela have continued to drop while Guatemala, Peru and Ecuador improved. Cuba's economy remained repressive.

Of the 40 African nations graded, none were rated as free, seven were mostly free, 26 scored mostly unfree and seven were repressed.

Morocco was the freest while Somalia and Libya were the most repressed. Of the 18 repressed nations around the globe, more than a third were in Africa.

## Turkey Signs Gas Deal with Yemen

ANKARA, TURKEY (AP) - Looking to meet its ever-increasing needs for natural gas, Turkey has signed a deal with Yemen to buy 4 billion cubic meters (140 billion cubic feet) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by the year 2000, Energy Minister Recai Kutan said Sunday.

Turkey's natural gas consumption is expected to quadruple by 2005, according to energy officials.

Turkey has already signed gas purchase deals with Russia, Algeria, Iran, Egypt and Nigeria, and is looking elsewhere.

## Economic Digest

KUWAIT - Kuwait will no longer use mediators in its weapons purchases regardless of the value of the deal, Defense Minister Sheikh Salem al-Sabah announced Sunday.

The official told the Kuwait news agency that his ministry will deal directly with governments of countries that produce weapons.

He said the decision was part of a policy to cut the budget deficit and avoid unnecessary spending. The estimated shortfall for the current 1996-97 fiscal year is about \$5 billion.

Kuwait's 50-seat parliament, the only elected legislature in the Persian Gulf, had accused ministry officials of graft and irregularities in defense purchases worth millions of dollars.

DHAHRAN - Saudi Aramco plans to undertake nine major projects worth more than \$4.65 billion following the completion of the \$2 billion Shaybah oil field development in 1998, the Saudi Gazette reported Sunday.

The projects will include upgrading gas plants, developing pipelines and expanding production, the English-language paper said. Local companies will be awarded subcontracts to execute the projects.

BEIRUT - Lebanon has banned the import of live cows, sheep, goats and pigs as well as meat products from Bulgaria, the local daily Al-Anwar reported Sunday.

It quoted minister of agriculture Shawkat Fakhoury as saying that the measure was taken after the 15 European Union states banned the import of live animals and meat products from Bulgaria because the animals were disease-infected.

Fakhoury did not say what disease infected the animals.

The Lebanese ban did not include Bulgarian-made dairy and cheese products, but they must be examined at the ministry's laboratory before they are allowed into the country.

BEIJING - China said its soaring stock markets were overheating on widespread speculation and warned of a crash similar to the great Wall Street collapse of 1929.

BOMBAY - Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has said that a controversial corporate tax may be phased out after a new income tax act and companies act came into force. Indian industry has complained that the minimum alternate tax ate into the profits of several companies this year, partly resulting in lower half-year results at most leading firms.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong Stocks inched higher in morning trade after taking a hit last week, but analysts said investors were still cautious and the upside this session was likely to be limited.

BEIJING - China's Huaneng Group Corp has signed an agreement with several Chinese companies to build a 4.47 billion yuan (\$538 million) power plant in eastern Jiangsu Province, the Xinhua news agency said.

LONDON - More than 150,000 British workers will lose their jobs in the coming months, the opposition Labor Party said. The job losses will cover all areas of the economy including construction, financial services, retail and manufacturing industries and public services, a Labor statement said. They will total 151,674.

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## Treat Teethers with Patience

**QUESTION:** My most beautiful and wonderful new baby, a joy forever, has become a little less enjoyable these past weeks. Frantic calls to my mother have me convinced that he suffers from teething. But what is a new mother to do, except turn to her favorite newspaper doctor. Surely you have the solutions. Won't you please share them with me?

**ANSWER:** I am probably opening Pandora's box in trying to answer this question for you, and will be rewarded with a flood of mail that tells me I am all wrong, but here goes anyway.

Your baby's irritability is the result of the swollen and painful gums that accompany the natural process of teething. Usually teething babies drool a bit more, and they want to chew and suck a lot more to help reduce the discomfort and tenderness.

You can help a bit by massaging the gums lightly with a finger. Try to give your son something cool to suck on, like a teething ring that has been kept in the refrigerator for a while.

Some over-the-counter medications are available, but I would check with your doctor for approval before using one. A hard biscuit or cookie can provide the child with something to chew on, and in certain circles, mothers swear by stale bagels as the perfect solution to the problem.

## Flu Shot May Not Be Necessary for the Young and Active

By Dr. Allan Bruckheim

**QUESTION:** I have a young, very healthy and very active son, who participates in college athletics. His coach is really leaning on him to get a flu shot now, and we just can't fathom the reasoning behind this pressure.

Perhaps we still hold a bit of suspicion about the safety of this injection, as well as the possible benefits it can have for a youngster who normally has no sick days.

We would like to know where you stand on this question and hope you will consider it for your column.

**ANSWER:** Your question is particularly interesting for this time of the year, and it offers me an opportunity to provide information of interest to all.

First let me dispel any fears you have about the safety of the injection. Since it is prepared from killed viruses, it cannot cause an infection. When we see cases of flu

developing shortly after an injection, it must be presumed that the infection occurred before the injection. Also, problems that existed previously in flu vaccinations, particularly the swine flu vaccine of 1976, have now been corrected.

You may be right in questioning the need of a shot for a vigorous, young man.

Recommendations for flu vaccination are directed at people who are at high risk from the complications of the flu. They include the elderly, people who suffer with chronic conditions such as diabetes, and those with disorders of the lungs and cardiovascular system.

The classroom may, however, be a breeding ground for infections that pass through the respiratory system. Moving from room to room crowded with many people exposes the individual to contamination from a large number of people. The coach may be trying to assure that your son is able to compete during the season, as he must

be a valuable player on the team. A few relatively benign side effects from the injection include soreness at the site of injection, lasting up to 12 hours, which affects from 25 percent to 50 percent of the individuals taking the shot, and a mild fever that disappears in less than 24 hours, which occurs in 1 percent of the cases.

There is controversy among physicians as to the advisability of giving the injection to young athletes, so the choice is up to your son.

### ACROSS MY DESK

Children's injuries from in-line skating, soccer, gymnastics and trampolines are among the most frequently treated in hospital emergency rooms but are preventable, according to a recent report.

Full protective gear, including well-fitting skate boots, wrist protectors, helmets, and knee and elbow pads, is important to reduce the recent rise of children's injuries due to in-line skates.

### HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Michael A. Pettit, M.D.

WHAT ARE SOME FOODS, BESIDES MILK, THAT SUPPLY CALCIUM?



COOKED DRIED BEANS, ALMONDS, DRIED FIGS AND SOY BEANS.

Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic device.

### DENISTRENEVAGE

by Hank Ketcham

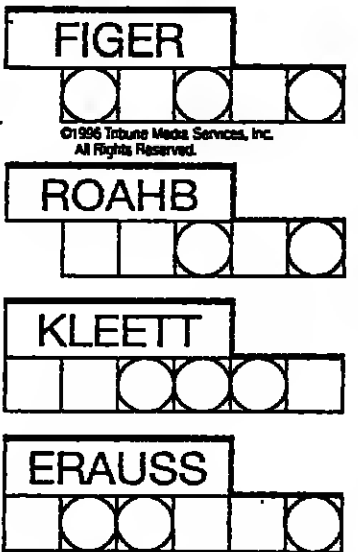


"THAT WAS A GREAT SUNSET. THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY AWAKE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE IT."

## CORNUCOPIA

### JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: FIGER AND ERAUSS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argison



FOUND AT A BOXING MATCH AND A LEGISLATURE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: APART SHINY EMPIRE CLAUSE  
Answer: An icy sidewalk can turn shoes into these - "SLIPPERS"

### ANACAMPTIS PYRAMIDALIS (L.) L.C.M.

Richard

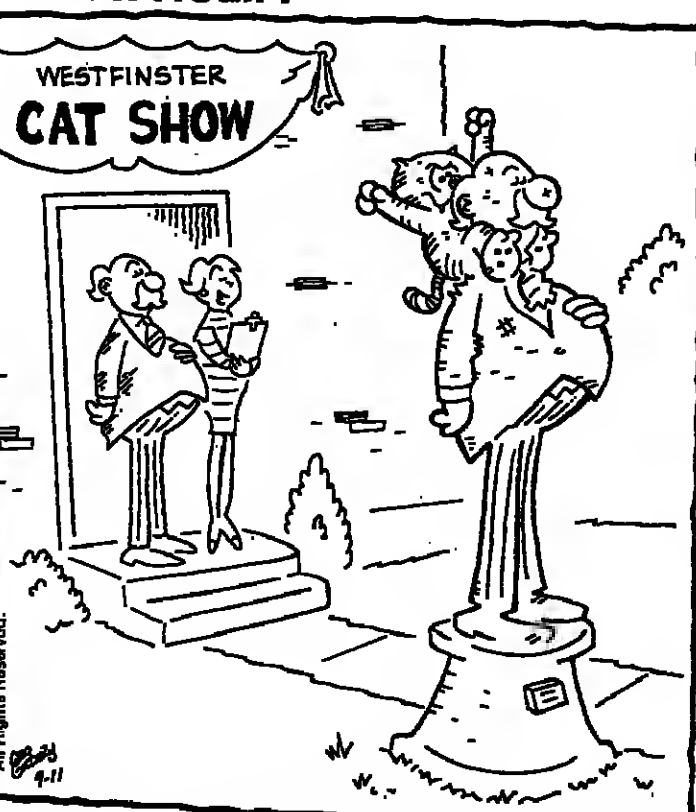
Family: Orchidaceae



This species is the sole representative of the genus *Anacamptis*. Two small egg-shaped tubers produced at its root give rise to an unbranched erect stem 20-60 cm. in height. Leaves narrow, linear-lanceolate.

Flowers very similar to orchids are borne in beautiful clusters at the end of the stem. Spur very long. Lip deeply three-lobed. This species withstands any climate condition and grows in any place from the maritime brushwood localities up to the alpine zone. Flowers May-July. Ubiquitous in Greece.

### HEATHCLIFF



"WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU, JUDGE."



IN HIS MINUSCULE SIZE, IT TAKES CALVIN, THE HUMAN INSECT, TEN MINUTES TO WALK ACROSS A BOOK'S PAGE!



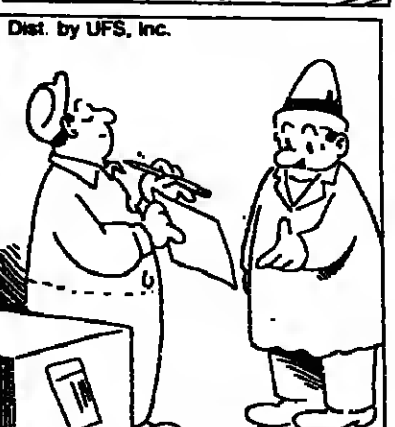
AT THE OTHER END, HE SLOWLY LIFTS THE GIGANTIC SHEET!



THEN IT'S ANOTHER TEN-MINUTE JOURNEY BACK, AS HE TURNS IT OVER!



GEE, THE KIDS BEEN QUIET FOR ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES. HE'S DOING HIS HOMEWORK.



کتابخانه



# Panama King of the Jungle Welcomes Tourists

**BOCAS DEL TORO, PANAMA** (Reuters) - Panama's only king is holding court in the jungle and everyone is invited.

Cesar Santana, 44, king of the little-known Teribe tribe, has agreed with government tourism officials to bring tourists to his humble and remote kingdom for drinks, dancing and dining. Officially called maximum supreme ruler, Santana prefers to be referred to as king or, better, Mr. King.

He is set to rule for life and his successor will be chosen from one of his two sons. With a wood staff at his side, Santana speaks softly, with a dry sense of humor.

The Santanas have ruled the Teribe as long as anyone can remember. In the center of town are

two gravestones of the present king's forefathers, who began the modern fight for independence.

"My people are poor and tourism can help," Santana told a government-organized press tour to the region recently.

One of the smallest of Panama's six Indian groups and the only one that selects a king, the Teribe number 1,500 and live in a remote area in the rainy jungle of Panama's western province of Bocas del Toro (mouths of the bull), some 50 miles (80 km) from the Costa Rican border.

The only access is up river rapids and mountainous trails. Local Indian scholars say the Teribe may be the only Indian group in the Americas that selects a king.

With advance warning, San-

tana and his people will gladly perform traditional dances and prepare a vegetable and rabbit dinner with juice from local pineapple and orange groves.

Baseball cap doubles as crown

But signs of western civilization have crept in. To complement his traditional long-sleeved white cotton shirt, Santana's crown is a "Champion Suzuki" baseball cap to shade him from the sun, pinned to his shirt is an Interior Ministry badge identifying him as king.

The Teribe's ancient tradition of paying homage to a river god has been replaced with modern religious groups from protestant evangelists to Catholics. "I've tried them all but I don't have a religion now," Santana said.

He lives with his wife and five

children in a straw-roofed home on the banks of the Teribe River rather than the royal palace, a modern cement structure in the center of town that triples as health clinic and jail.

Apart from farming, Santana spends his time solving minor robberies along with national police officers and dealing with land disputes. "Being king is not easy," he admitted.

Tribe named for rough river

Named after the rough river crossing their lands, the Teribe resisted early Spanish conquistadors searching for gold. "Those of us who weren't killed off by the Spanish have remained here and never left, we haven't even gone over to Costa Rica," Santana said.

"Of course we can leave, it's

not prohibited," he quipped.

Tourists, mostly trekking from Costa Rica, began appearing in the community a few years ago. Then this year the Teribe entered into a pact with Panama's Tourism Institute to organize trips to their area.

The Teribe's most important festival is July 29, when Santana

was crowned eight years ago.

"We've never practiced tourism before. We have to study it well," he said. "We want ecotourists to learn our culture and buy our crafts. But we want them to come with our permission. With control, our culture won't be threatened."

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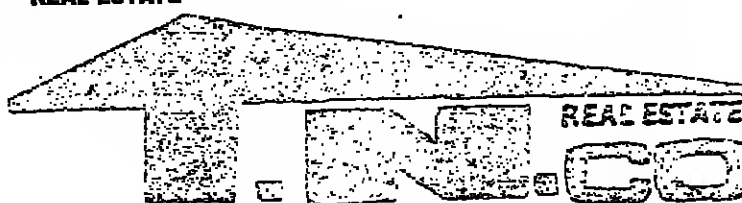
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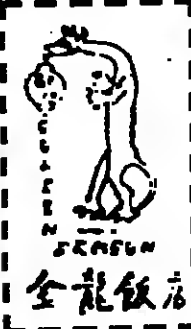
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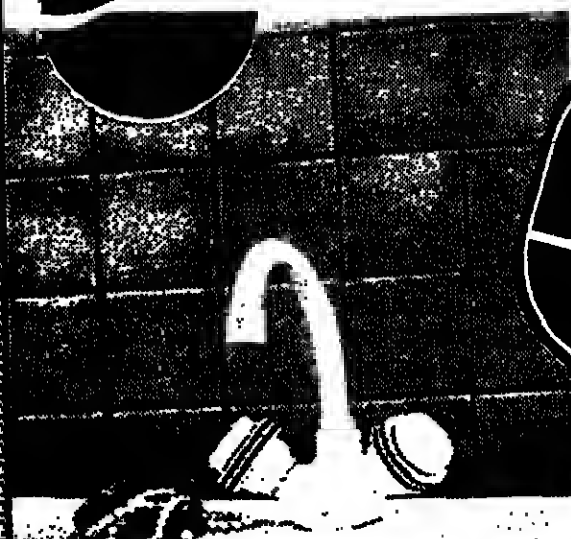


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## Chinese Director, Movie Sweep Taiwan's "Oscars"

TAIPEI (Reuters) - A movie director from China and his film have won six awards in Taiwan's "Oscars", the Golden Horse awards, in the first year mainland films were allowed to participate.

China's Jiang Wen won best director and his film, *In the Heat of the Sun*, which depicts the life of a Beijing youth during the Cultural Revolution, was chosen as best picture during Saturday's ceremony.

Mainland actor Xia Yu, who played the youth in the movie, won best actor award. Jiang won a second Golden Horse for best screenplay adaptation.

The awards, Taiwan's equivalent of Hollywood's Oscars, in previous years featured only Chinese-language movies from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

But China, Taiwan's political rival since a civil war split them in 1949, banned all other films from participating after *In the Heat of the Sun* entered the contest without receiving government approval.

China also did not allow Jiang and Xia to attend the award ceremony held in Taiwan.

Hong Kong actress Josephine Siao won best actress for the second straight year for her leading role in the Taiwan film *Stage Door*.

In February, Taiwan's government decided to allow a limited number of movies and television programs from China to be shown on the island.

## Hollywood Girding for Assault of the Internet

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Two and a half years ago, Jason Ruspini, a self-proclaimed "member of the Star Wars generation," paid his beloved saga the ultimate high-technology tribute: he designed and posted a Star Wars web site.

Fans loved the page. Lucasfilm, which owns the rights to "Star Wars," did not. With devotees dropping in at a rate of up to 40,000 per day, Lucasfilm made a discreet phone call to the University of Pennsylvania student.

"They nicely asked me to shut it down, with the implication that if I didn't they would bring in a lawyer or something," said Ruspini, now 21. "It was a total surprise."

What happened next, though, apparently came as a total surprise to Lucasfilm, the San Rafael, California-based company owned by "Star Wars" creator George Lucas.

Lucasfilm was about to learn the hard way what the rest of Hollywood is just beginning to understand: that ownership on the web may be one of the prickliest problems facing copyright law since the codes were written years ago.

Ruspini posted excerpts on the web site of his conversation with a Lucasfilm executive. Outraged "Star Wars" devotees vented their furor on Lucasfilm. Ruspini says they flooded the company with angry E-mails, demanding to know how it could presume to assert such totalitarian control over a product some fans had woven into the very fabric of their lives.

Four months after the January 1996 phone call to Ruspini, Lu-

casfilm backed down. In a letter posted on Ruspini's web site, the company apologized for apparent "miscommunication" and vowed to develop a web policy soon.

"Technology is advancing fast



George Lucas, creator of 'Star Wars' myth

enough to worry about copyrights of film now," said John Raffetto, a spokesman for the Creative Incentive Coalition, a Washington, D.C., lobbying group representing the movie industry.

Hollywood is in a dither over the possibility that its greatest asset - motion pictures - is easily available, for free, to anyone with a sufficiently powerful computer and an internet account.

Industry executives say current copyright law cannot protect them from rampant piracy - they need precision-sharp technologies and enhanced legislation to block limitless video reproduction in cyberspace.

This call to action has incited its share of controversy. As the industry pushes for legislative changes in Washington, it's run up

against law professors, librarians and movie fans who call the new copyright proposals a covert grab for control of now-public information.

"It really violates the entire nature of the copyright law," said Karen Coyle, a library automation specialist with the University of California, and a member of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

But the studios say they are genuinely concerned about the future.

"The internet is an amazing phenomenon that creates opportunities and issues to which we are all responding," said Richard Glosser, the vice president of Interactive Programming at Sony Pictures. "We'll do what we can to protect ourselves. We'll do our best." The industry is fighting back on two fronts, the hi-tech and the legislative.

In the technology field, movie-makers - concerned that one day soon computer users will be able to easily download and view entire videos - are actively encouraging the development of protection devices.

In one scenario, distributors would make movies available via the internet for a fee, but rig the system so that each downloaded film could not be copied and used by someone else's computer.

In Washington, entertainment lobbyists are joining forces with their counterparts in the music, publishing and software industries to push for updated copyright laws, specifically prohibiting piracy in cyberspace and slapping offenders with up to \$250,000 in fines, and five years in jail.

"I think a lot of people right

now believe anything on the internet is free and up for grabs," Raffetto said. "(People seem to think) if you can get it on the internet, you're free of copyright law."

Ruspini, the "Star Wars" web site creator, was not one of those people. He knew that even current copyright law gives intellectual property owners like Lucasfilm rights on the internet. But he went ahead with his site anyway, he says, figuring the worst they could do was order him to shut down.

Today, Lucasfilm has no official comment on the debacle, other than the statement the company posted last spring.

"We are sorry for any confusion that may have emerged from any miscommunication on our part," the company wrote in its notice, which called fans "an important part of our 'Star Wars' family" and included a promise to

develop internet guidelines.

Different companies are taking various routes toward self-protection on the web.

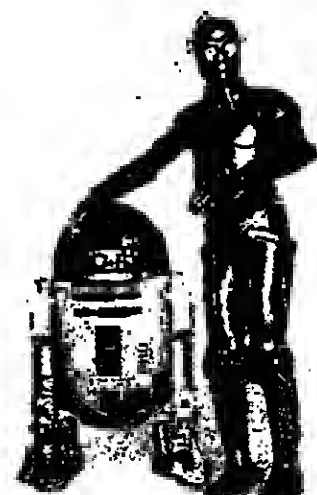
Disney, known for zealously guarding its trademarked property, appears to have adopted a laissez-faire attitude toward web replication, permitting even such extensive copying as "Christy's Disney Images page" with its sketches of everything from Aladdin to Winnie the Pooh. The studio itself refused to comment.

Conversely, Paramount has cracked down on "the unofficial Brady Bunch page," demanding the creator remove some images and sound clips, and on numerous Star Trek fans for printing synopses of the plot of the just-released, latest installment in the film series.

The studios' stern reactions to what are largely fan memorials have left some web site creators complaining publicly. Jeanette Foshee, a fan of the Fox TV show "The Simpsons," received a "cease and desist" letter from the network after executives noticed her Simpson icons scattered across various web sites.

"The letter was pretty aggressive and hostile," Foshee, of Boone, Iowa, wrote in an E-mail posted on "the Simpsons archive" web site. "I was giving them free publicity. But I guess this is part and parcel of the way things are done today."

A Fox spokesman, requesting anonymity, responded: "It's not our intention to shut down bona fide fan web sites. It is our intention to insist that all web sites meet guidelines that protect the creative integrity of the programs they represent."



The robot duo from 'Star Wars'

## A Crane on

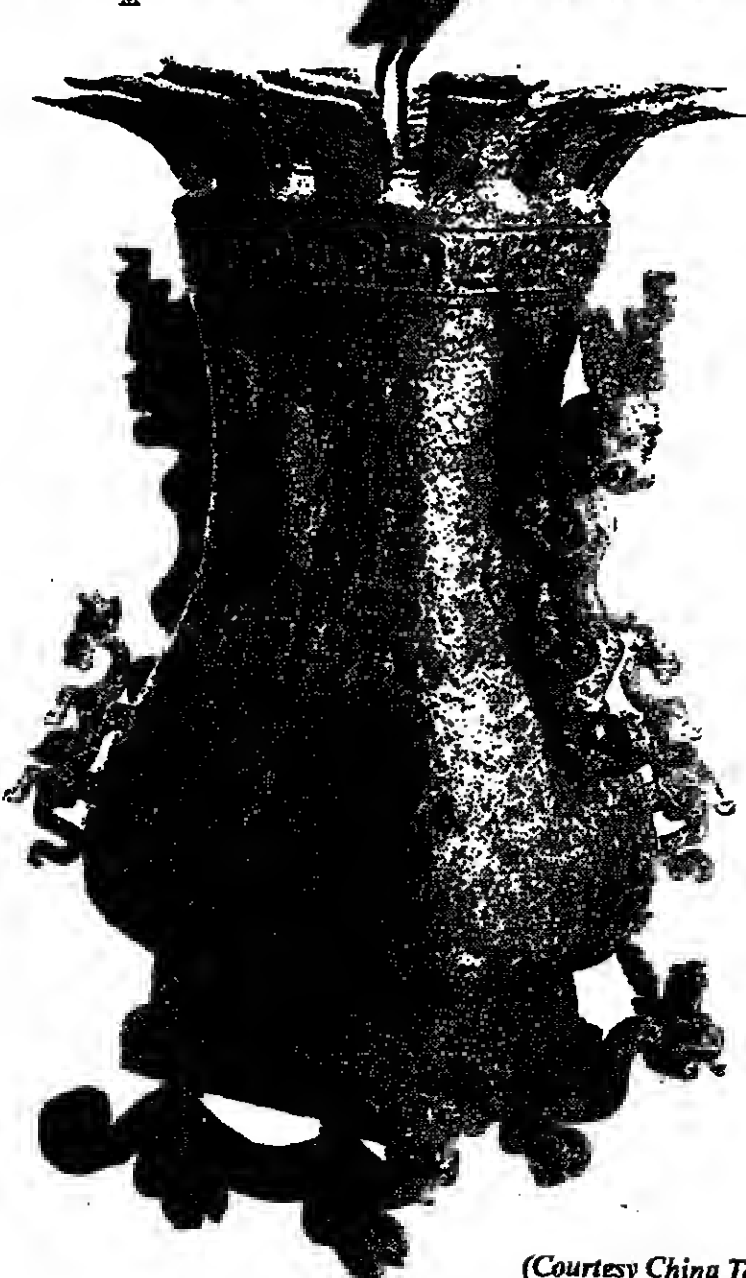
Bronze appeared in China about 4,000 years ago. With the development of bronze metallurgy, bronze items became lighter in weight and more elaborate in design during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.).

Uniquely designed and cast with superb craftsmanship, the square ewer with a crane on top shown on this page is considered a rare objet d'art, produced during the Spring and Autumn Period. Known as the "King of Ewers," it stands 118 centimeters high, measures 54 by 54 centimeters on the sides and weighs 64.28 kilograms. The front and back sides of the neck are each embellished with a flat dragon. Two dragons, their heads turned back and tails coiled, are attached to the sides of the ewer to serve as its handles. On the corners of the belly are four winged dragons. The ewer is supported on two walking tigers whose tails coil and tongues hang out. The rim of the mouth of the ewer is decorated with rectangular spirals and two rows of lotus petals. Its lid is topped by a graceful crane with its wings spread and neck stretched high as if ready to fly and sing.

Ewers produced during the Spring and Autumn Period are mostly round and square in shape with long necks. Compared with the bronze pieces of the Shang and the early Zhou dynasties, those produced during the Spring and Autumn Period are unique in shape, skillfully designed and elaborately decorated.

The ewer was discovered in a tomb dating back to about 680 B.C. at Lijialou in Xingzheng County, Henan Province in August 1923. Among the relics found in the tomb were a large assortment of pottery ware, jade objects and over 100 bronze items. This ewer is one of a pair found in the tomb. The other one is now in the collection of the Henan Museum.

## Top of a Ewer



(Courtesy China Today)

## Copenhagen Culture Year Gets Mixed Review

COPENHAGEN (Reuters) - Copenhagen ended 12 months as Europe's culture capital on Saturday after a year marked by a huge political row over one of the main events and a mixed reception from the Danes themselves.

"The year has been a great success, it has completely transformed the city," Trevor Davies, the British-born director of Copenhagen Cultural Capital '96 told Reuters.

"Copenhagen had been the same for years, we have given the old lady a face lift. We have promoted Copenhagen to the first division as a European cultural city, giving culture the upgrading it has lacked for many years."

But many ordinary Copenhageners complained that they failed to gain much cultural enlightenment from the year, some finding it more of a festival for the cultured middle class elite than an attempt to promote the arts to the unconverted.

A Gallup survey showed only 22 percent of citizens of greater Copenhagen expressing positive interest in cultural capital, with 52 percent confessing to having minimal interest in the city's greatest ever cultural spectacle.

Only five percent actually displayed any great enthusiasm for the project, according to Gallup.

### Differing Perceptions

"As a concept cultural capital has

been like a huge, stupid muscle pumped up by steroids. Major events failed on the artistic level and were unable to attract public. Cultural capital has been great for tourism, short on culture," said the daily newspaper Information.

"Lots of foreign visitors have attended the event, hundreds of thousands of Danes have enjoyed new artistic experiences," added the daily Politiken.

"But it was in no way culturally experimental or provocative, it failed to challenge our existing life style."

### Other Events

The year's 100 events included exhibitions of paintings by Rembrandt, French Impressionists and Picasso, an Islamic exhibition, music festivals with top European orchestras, classical soloists, opera, ballet, theater, rock, jazz and modern dance.

The most popular single event was a huge Japanese firework display along Copenhagen's waterfront, which attracted almost a half million spectators.

The year saw rebuilding schemes and building projects including the new seafont Ark Museum of Modern Art and a marble and glass annex for the Glyptotek Museum's French Impressionist collection.

Unconventional fixtures were "Container '96 - Art Across the Oceans," with 96 artists from all over the world creating installations in containers massed along the harbor front.





Internet

# Mahallat Enjoying 230 Producing Units, Main Producer of Knitwear in the Country



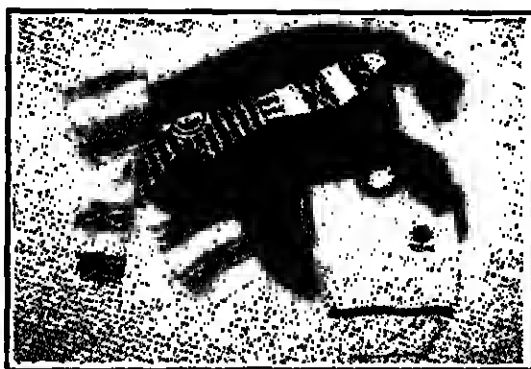
**M**ahdi Ghods, managing director of Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Company (MKCC), in an interview elaborated on the company's activities and said: "MKCC was established in 1981 and at present it enjoys over 230 concentrated knitwear producing units in Mahallat and also it has 250 members which is considered as one of the most active cooperatives in Central Province. Some 1,200 workers in this company using 32 computerized and full automatic machines and 700 mechanical machinery produce different types of knitwear."

*Ghods: Some 1,200 workers in this company using 32 computerized and full automatic machines and 700 mechanical machinery produce different types of knitwear.*

Thanks to the existing facilities, MKCC has potential capability of exporting 10 million dollars worth of its products annually, explained Ghods.

The managing director of Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Company went on saying that from quality and sale points of view the products of Mahallat compared to those of Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan and Tabriz enjoy a considerable renown.

Some parts of the products of the company's affiliated units are purchased by wholesalers in the markets of Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan and Shiraz and some parts of them are exported to above-mentioned countries by the exporting companies.



Ghods continued that the establishment of a embroidery units and also a selvaige-knitting unit is under way by the cooperative company and we hope to achieve this objective through cooperation of the general offices of cooperative and industries and provincial banks.

All the workshops through establishment of embroidery unit which are engaged in simple knitting and weaving will be capable to produce high

**The Managing Director of Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Co.:**

*Some parts of the products of the company's affiliated units are purchased by wholesalers in the markets of Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan and Shiraz and some parts of them are exported to foreign countries by the exporting companies.*

*Ghods, the Managing Director of Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Co. The establishment of selvaige-knitting unit also completes the company's activities and we can enjoy a perfect four-season chain and have an active presence in international markets.*

quality products and offer them to the international markets by completing embroidery works. The establishment of selvaige-knitting unit also completes the company's activities and we can enjoy a perfect four-season chain.

He added that if these two units become operational, job opportunities will be created for 30 people and we can reach the maximum capacity of knitwear and sewing units. It is anticipated over 150 young people of Mahallat will be employed in the future. According to proposal and cooperation of General Office of Cooperative of Central Province, a branch for direct supply of MKCC's products will be inaugurated in the near future in Arak.

At the end, the managing director of Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Company expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all officials of Central Province as well as Bank Saderat Iran of



the province and said, "Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Company's successes owe to assistance of provincial authorities in particular Central Province General Office of Cooperative as well as Bank Saderat Iran of Central Province. The company needs the support of Ministry of Cooperative in order to continue its activities and achieve its objectives and also it requires the cooperation of Bank Saderat Iran of

Central Province in order to provide liquidity and foreign currency needed for buying required machinery."

All the exporters, cooperatives, wholesalers and interested persons are invited to pay a visit to MKCC and we express our readiness to meet their needs of knitwear, concluded Ghods.



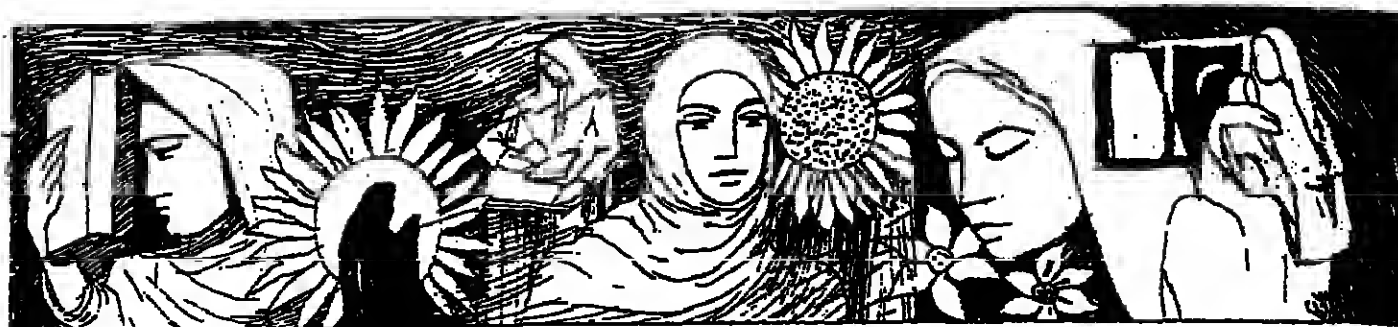
**Ghods, the Managing Director of Mahallat Knitwear Cooperative Co.:**

*The products of the affiliated production units of this cooperative company are now available in the markets of Western Europe countries such as Germany, Switzerland, England, Russia, Ukraine, and also Central Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan as well as Persian Gulf littoral states and Pakistan.*

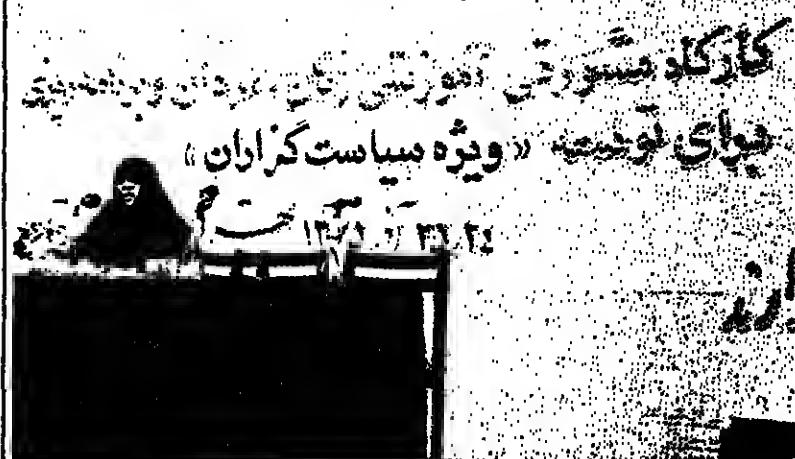
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# WOMEN in Society



## Policymakers' Workshop Emphasizes Women's Role in Development Planning



Habibi at the opening ceremony of the policymaker's workshop

**IRAN NEWS WOMEN'S DESK**  
TEHRAN - The First Consulting Workshop for Training Male and Female Development Planners was opened here yesterday by the Adviser to the President on Women's Affairs, Shabla Habibi.

During the opening ceremonies, Habibi said that the main goal of the workshop is to inject gender and women issues into the country's planning and policy-making principles for development.

"We hope that the workshop can pave the way for revising the old attitudes regarding women. Our policymakers should understand that women play an important role in the process of development."

She added, "The training workshop is considered as a step toward drawing up a national program of action based on the prescription of the Beijing document."

According to the agreement reached at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing Sept. 1995, participants are committed to provide and execute a national program of action within two years after the conference.

The two-day workshop, was held by the Bureau of Women's Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and attended by prominent officials from the Majlis, various ministries and some governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## French Socialists to Field More Women

### Candidates in 1998 Elections

PARIS (AP) - Trying to profit from perceived Chauvinism by the ruling Gaullists, the Socialist Party said Saturday at least 30 percent of its 1998 candidates for Parliament will be women.

The Socialist National Council voted to approve party leader Lionel Jospin's plan to field at least 167 female candidates for the 555 seats in the National Assembly.

"I'm very happy for this advance for the democratic life, for the women in this country and for the Socialist Party," Jospin said after the vote. "It's a more equal representation of the population."

Women play a disproportionately small role in French political life, a fact that was highlighted when conservative Premier Alain Juppe cut his Cabinet's female membership to 4 out of 32 just over a year ago.

The National Assembly currently has only 35 female members, just 6 percent of the deputies.

It was unclear how much changing the party list of candidates would help the Socialists at the polls.

Recent surveys have shown that French voters, angered by record unemployment and social unrest, would toss out Juppe's rul-

ing Rally for the Republic Party (RPR) and its conservative coalition in favor of the Socialists and other leftists.

The left-leaning daily Liberation estimated that with Jospin's plan, a Socialist majority would have 40 to 50 women deputies, creating the highest female membership in the Parliament's history.

"The RPR thinks women are only good as back-ups," Jospin said. "We are the only important political formation to go this far."

RPR representatives were not immediately available for comment.

Socialist Deputy and former Environment Minister Segolene Royal said she thought a higher female profile would help the party, but that within the party, "resistance (to the plan) was hard."

Despite many promises in the past decade from party chiefs and presidential candidates, the proportion of women in the top tiers of politics have barely changed.

Former Socialist Prime Minister Edith Cresson, the first and only woman to fill that post, was the most unpopular premier since World War II and was forced to resign in 1992 after only 10 months in office.

## CONVERSATION WITH THE ONLY LEGISLATOR COUPLE

# We Are Together Everywhere, Even in the Majlis

BY: F. EBTEHAJ

TEHRAN - Dr. Seyed Gholamreza Shirazian and his wife Marziah Seddiqi, an engineer, are the only married couple in the Fifth Majlis. Both were elected by the people of Mashhad.

policies and remove the legislative bottlenecks. Based on a 15-year experience in the field of transportation, we have formulated a new plan for the Ministry of Roads and Transportation by taking into consideration the geographic position

women with various expertise in different commissions is beneficial to the planning sector where the condition of women will be carefully examined and a serious effort will be made to absorb resources and amend laws to benefit them," said the MP, adding that such a change in the status of women will have a positive impact on public opinion about women's capabilities.

In short 80 percent of the time of these couple is spent in the Majlis.

Asked to comment on her personal life Seddiqi, who spends

80 percent of her time dealing with issues related to her job as an MP, said: "We have four children who contribute to our work by helping us with our correspondence with the constituents. After their school duties, most of their time is spent on parliamentary tasks."

Asked how much he expects his wife to follow his wishes, Shirazian said: "Married life is based on mutual understanding. Not only I do not expect unquestioned and blind obedience from my wife, I do not expect it from my children either. Justice and logic are the two principles that we must all follow."



SEDDIQI

In an interview with IRAN NEWS Shirazian said: "We have always complemented one another in our lives, in our working life, while we were students and in our capacity as Majlis MPs."

While confirming her husband's statement, Seddiqi said: "As far as I remember we have shared everything in our married life. We were very young when we married and for the last 26 years we have been together in all the stages of our married life."

Shirazian holds a doctorate in road and building engineering in the field of transportation planning, and Seddiqi holds a masters degree in the same field.

Prior to their working in the Majlis, the couple worked together in various government and non-government executive positions as executive managers in the comprehensive transportation planning and state airports network and in Sharan International Transportation Company. Shirazian is chairman of the board of Sharan and his wife is the company's managing director.

Just before the elections for the Fifth Majlis they agreed that Seddiqi should be nominated from Tehran and Shirazian from Mashhad, but Seddiqi changed her mind and her husband did not get enough votes to be elected.

"I suggested to my wife that we should both stand for Parliament from Mashhad, the seat of our constituency. We were both subsequently elected by the good people of Mashhad to represent them in the Islamic Consultative Assembly," Shirazian noted.

They are both members of the Housing and Transportation Commission of the Majlis and Seddiqi is the rapporteur of the commission as well.

Shirazian noted: "By analyzing the performance of the housing sector during the First and Second Plans we hope to identify the weak and strong points of our housing

of Iran and we will submit it to the ministry shortly."

Asked about plans for granting key posts to women, Seddiqi who, like her husband, is well versed in planning and budgetary fields said: "Due to the problems encountered during the imposed war, the government was unable to make plans for women, and the matter was taken into account in the First Five Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan, but during the formulation of the Second Five Year Plan this matter rectified to some extent so that women are now included in rehabilitation, social insurance, health and treatment, education and physical education fields."

According to Seddiqi the women's issue has not been addressed as a necessary and abstract theme in the Second Plan programs and its executive structure.

"For this reason policies regarding participation of women does not have the necessary budgetary backing needed for the realization of women's objectives," complained Seddiqi, but expressed hope that by clarifying the matter for the budget planners the necessary budget will be allocated for employment of women in various fields.

She said she will do her utmost to achieve that important goal.

Stressing the need for offering key posts to women, the female lawmaker said: "Before we attend to engagement of women in key positions we must launch a concrete and dynamic drive to help women understand their instinctive powers and capabilities."

Referring to the fact that women are now represented in various Majlis commissions including labor and social affairs, housing, transportation, foreign policy and health, Seddiqi said in the past women MPs were present only in the education and health commissions.

"Presence of knowledgeable



SHIRAZIAN

## Marriage Portion Plan Close to Final Approval

By S. Bahari

TEHRAN - The general outline of the marriage portion (mehr) plan was approved by the Majlis last week.

Asked about the general scope of the marriage portion plan (mehr) given to the wife by the husband after marriage, Male Deputy Marziah Seddiqi told IRAN NEWS: "This plan was presented in the Fifth Majlis and for two days was the most debated and sensitive issue in the Parliament and was finally approved by a vote of 106 for and 79 against with 1 abstention in the first reading."

Calling the marriage portion plan one of the most important laws, the female MP, who represents citizens of Mashhad in the Majlis, said due to devaluation of the rial in the last few years calculation of the marriage portion on the basis of current rates and inflation indicators was necessary.

"We believe the marriage portion is a supporting shield for women and aides to increase their financial resources. Therefore, the amended plan must be considered as an essential element toward the realization of social justice and protection of women's rights," said Seddiqi.

Referring to the fact that the final aspects of the plan had been carefully examined and confirmed by the Majlis clerics, Seddiqi said the plan, once it becomes law, will deal immediate and irrational divorce and will stand as a barrier for husbands who by paying a reasonable amount of money would like to divorce their wives without any legal basis, as the marriage portion protects the wife's assets, making the women and children stranded.

She said once the bill is ratified in the second reading, it will be approved by the Guardian Council and will become a legally binding law.

After final approval of the above plan, should the marriage portion be based on the calculation of the rate of inflation of the rial, it will be adjusted on the basis of the latest price indicators and the change in the purchasing power of the rial and the price of marriage portion. A brilliant Seddiqi added:

U.N. Conve... Sel...  
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